

**INSIDE**

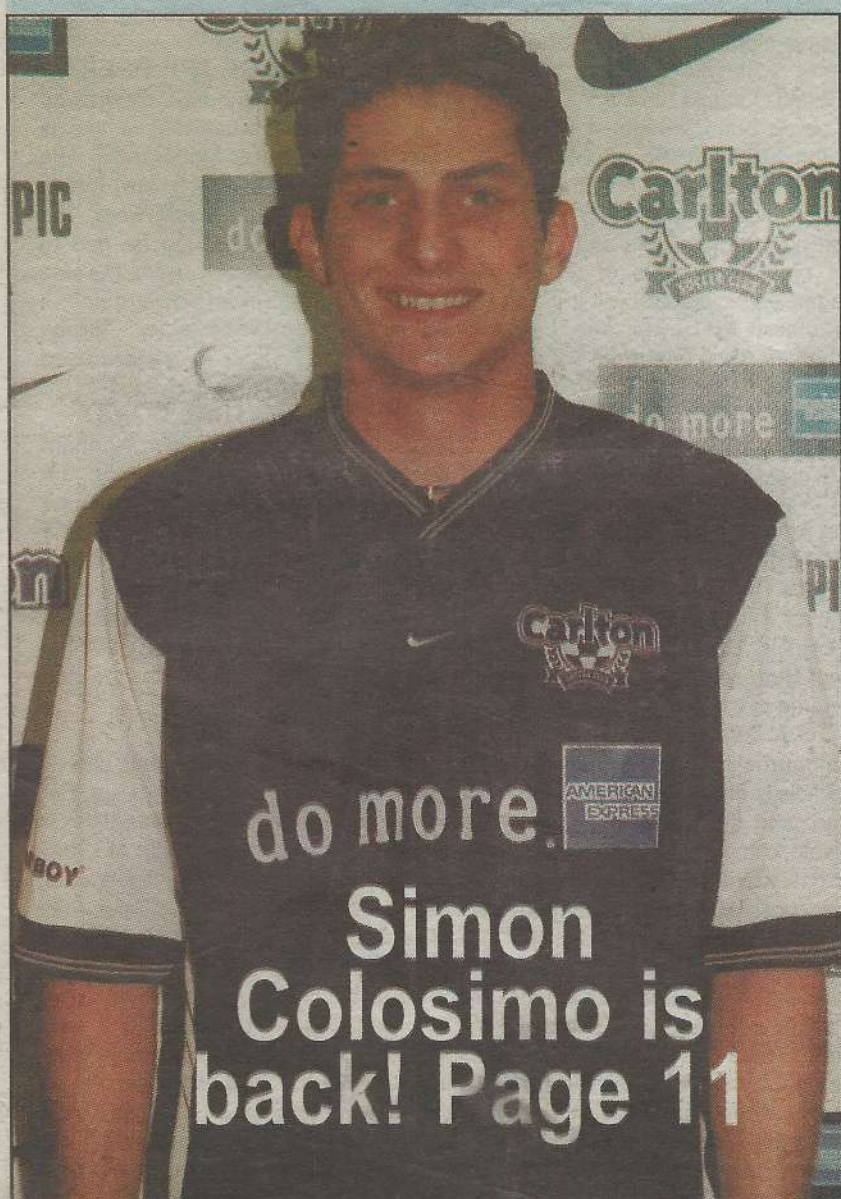
Your quality Australian weekly soccer paper for the new millennium

# SOCCER

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## DE AMICIS SPARKS TEAMMATE ANGER



Simon  
Colosimo is  
back! Page 11

By Greg Blake

**I**f South Melbourne's historic 'threepeat' attempt was on life support before, it'll be interesting to see just how damaging the most recent impositions at the club affect the dying embers of this season.

A breathtakingly honest interview with club vice-captain and four time NSL championship player, Fausto De Amicis, in Melbourne's large circulation daily 'Herald Sun' has caused a few ripples at South.

At least one of his teammates is decidedly unimpressed, confiding that he believes some of De Amicis' comments - under the banner headline 'We've lost the hunger' - were "right out of order" and suggested they could cause more dissension in the ranks at Bob Jane Stadium.

"Mate, he's put the boot in when he should be maybe having a look at himself," he told me.

"You might feel a certain way about things at times, but criticizing your teammates in public certainly won't help things."

De Amicis was quoted as saying that he felt that "this season is probably over for us", in the wake of South Melbourne's limp 2-4 loss at Canberra in round 26.

"When we're playing this badly, I don't know you'd want to go into the finals as part of the top six," De Amicis was quoted as saying.

"The willingness to pull each other out of the quicksand is gone. We didn't battle. I don't know if the club will be happy with me saying that, but it's the truth.

"Maybe the time has come for changes

teamwise. It could be me, it could be others.

"Maybe it's time to bring in the young blood and start rebuilding. If you're going to lose this way, you may as well lose with the young ones and give them the experience for next year.

"A number of players are coming out of contract at the end of this season and there may be different things on their minds."

Pretty damning stuff; wonder whether it will rev them or rip them wide open?

It has to be said that De Amicis - a bloke I've always admired for his candour - has probably got the pedigree to offer his opinion.

The dashing and diminutive 200-gamer is, after all, the only bloke in NSL history to have played on four grand final-winning teams, two with the Melbourne Knights and the past two at South Melbourne.

It must be noted that De Amicis is often wrongly referred to as the only player to have won four NSL championships.

It does a huge disservice to at least one blue ribband NSL great in 'Jinking' Joe Watson, a one-time Soccerroo of some calibre.

Watson played in every 'season-decider' during the now defunct Sydney City's reign as the NSL's powerhouse outfit, as that club rolled to title victories in 1977, 1980, 1981 and 1982.

**A**nd in other news, unconfirmed UK reports suggest Harry Kewell is considering his international future.

Kewell's agents have denied the story and, most importantly, the player himself has not been quoted directly on the issue.

The preview of the Soccerroo v Czech Republic game is on page three.

## Socceroos in Europe

We preview the Czech Republic game

## Was Beardsley worth it?

Blakey gives his verdict

## Moore brain than brawn

Newcastle's cultured defender Glenn

Moore talks with Aidan Ormond

Monza  
Bound  
Macca



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# Crooky



**D**avid Seal continued his goal scoring form against Gippsland on Friday night with his ninth goal of the season in a performance that had a lot to like about it.

Sure he scored a goal, which ultimately is his job, but it was the way he played that really impressed me.

From the opening exchanges to the full time whistle he threw himself into the game and encouraged everyone to follow his lead, through his actions and workrate.

I remember at the start of the year when he scored in the first match against Sydney United, Arnie said to me: "That's David Seal, he'll float around all match and look like he's not in the game and then he'll get one chance and score."

I'm happy to see that David Seal seems to have changed and changed for the better.

He did not stop running and to his credit he has kept that predatory talent of bobbing up to score goals.

His goal was not pretty. He swooped on a loose throw in and smashed the ball first time past the Gippsland goalkeeper to send us on our way.

'Sealy' has now scored seven goals in the last six matches he has started and that pre-season prediction of scoring 20 goals, while unlikely does not seem like such an outlandish statement.

His nine goals this season have come from just 17 starting appearances

as poor form and injury has seen him miss 10 matches this year.

Thankfully the poor form is now miles behind him and if he can remain injury free he may well push his tally into the teens when it is recorded at the end of the year.

One thing is for sure, if he can continue to score a goal a game we will go a long way towards fulfilling our new season goal of moving up to the top half of the NSL ladder before the end of the season.

Another positive to come out of the match was the performance of teenager Ryan Griffiths. Ryan is the younger brother of Spirit midfielder Adam and Parramatta striker Joel but he notched his first NSL goal with a "David Seal-type" goal.

He came into the match as a second half substitute and made a nuisance of himself up front by running everything down. His goal was a just reward for a player who has scored 16 times in the youth team but it was more the manner in which he played.

He wasn't afraid to get stuck in and showed that he can mix it with the big boys. He is one of the younger players Northern Spirit will be leaning on in the future.

Next assignment for Northern Spirit is a match against arch-rivals Marconi at Marconi Stadium on Sunday, in a match we desperately want to win.

Ian Crook  
Northern Spirit and England

# S-news

Inside Soccer's  
Australian news  
and goss

## OLYROO STUFF-UP?

**D**oes anyone know why one of our highest profile Socceroos - in line for a position with the Olyroos in Sydney 2000 - did not play against Slovakia in the recent friendly? Could it be that he simply wasn't told when and where the game was and how he'd get there. He was quite understandably unimpressed by it, according to our sources.

## ROMANCE IS STILL ALIVE IN AUSTRALIAN SOCCER

**F**orget David Beckham/Posh Spice's wedding shenanigans, Lee Sterrey knows how to do things in style. While the Breakers were special guests at the NRL in Newcastle on Friday (the players were paraded in utes to the crowd before the game), Sterrey was doing a radio interview. He cut short the on air story to turn to his partner Dayna, and produced a wedding ring and proposed on air! His wife to be was understandably shocked but accepted the offer unequivocally. The Knights, who were in on the romantic Sterrey plan, then produced red and blue fireworks 'I wanted to make it a surprise and what bigger night than in front of all these people,' Sterrey said to the Newcastle Herald. 'I would have done it at a Breakers game but I thought it might have taken the focus off the team. The Knights were fantastic, Kareji Cameron (Knights staff) could not have been more helpful, organising the fireworks and flowers.' S-news predicts a spate of on air footy marriages as everyone will try to outdo each other. To Dayna and Lee though, all the very very best from Inside Soccer.

## KOVACEVIC FOR MLS?

**M**elbourne Knights' tough defender Ante Kovacevic is reportedly on the shopping list of a major MLS club. Would he be the first Aussie to play in the US?

## CLEO BACHELOR OF THE YEAR

**D**aniela Raco reports that Adelaide Force's Ivan Zelic made it on to the Cleo Most Eligible Bachelor List. Zelic, younger bro of Ned, seems keen to carve out his own name in the modelling world.

## IOSIFIDIS TO MOVE INTERSTATE?

**S**outh Melbourne's talented fullback Steve Iosifidis is off contract at the end of the season, and there appears to be plenty of interest from interstate according to sources close to the player. Perth and Sydney are two possibilities for the soon to be married South star, although South is expected to make an offer. And Sydney United's Ray Younis was spotted dining in a cafe just an hour before the United v Power game. Turns out coach Ivan Petkovic does not believe Younis is in his plans and so the speed demon, formerly from Wolves, simply trains with them and plays in friendlies. His is contracted for two more years at Edensor Park.

## POWER FAN FAIR

**P**arra Power's first annual Power Fan Fair will be held on Sunday 2 April from 9am to 11am on the training field at the rear of Parramatta Stadium. Activities include face painting, jugglers, jumping castles, and easter egg hunt, plus autograph sessions and a coaching clinic with the Power players. The club was also in Lithgow last Friday spreading the message. And this Saturday you can see the Power @ the Fred Caterson Reserve Hill for the Castle Hill United Soccer club Season Launch. And guess what? Captain Power will be there!

## RAZOV TO EUROPE

**I**van Razov of VPL club St Albans Saints is currently trialling in Belgium and Germany. Mark Fisher, our VPL writer in

Melbourne says he's an attacking midfielder with quite a bit of potential, and has been used successfully as an impact player. And coach Alan Davidson's resignation from Bulleen Zebras has been announced.

## WOLVES ON TARGET AGAIN

**A** Wolves player is upset that he was wrongly accused of hitting an Audi sedan with a drive during last week's golf day at Wollongong, reported the Illawarra Mercury. It seems a golf ball went flying over the high fence alongside the fourth fairway. There was a loud clunk from a car yard on the opposite side of Corrimall St. 'They reckon my ball hit an Audi but I strongly deny that,' the player said. 'It was a Volkswagen.' They play top footy and they still have a sense of humour.

## P.R.A.T.

**S**eems that some of the Kingz fans are less than impressed with their home refs, who they feel overcompensate for being hometown officials. Hence P.R.A.T. The Precious, Rugg, Appreciation Trust. Having said that, the sagely Jeremy Ruane's match report on page 12 has a differing view of their refereeing. It's a game of opinions.

## THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

**W**ore that mask. One NSL player who knows exactly what that is like is Falcons' nuggety striker Igor Mandic, who had a face mask on for a few weeks recently. While in Sydney last week, the player admitted that although he had to wear it to play for medical reasons (he was smashed in the face in an earlier game) it was bloody uncomfortable. Bruce Grobbelaar was another footballer forced to wear a face mask while playing.

## SPIRIT ON CENTRAL COAST

**T**he Round 31 clash between Northern Spirit and Canberra Cosmos on Saturday, April 22, 2000, will now be played at North Power Stadium (Grahame Park, Gosford) at 7.30pm. The club is running special buses and trains for their fans. And here's a theory. Is there a correlation between the hardness of Spirit's training ground and the number of injuries the club seems to pick up? Just a theory.

## SPORTS SURVEY

**J**JJ radio ran as story on a sports survey saying that interest in sport is up, but participation is down. Soccer was fifth on their 'Sports Lovers' table, with AFL 3rd and Rugby League 6th. The figures for soccer were: Interested 38%, Take Part 9%, Attend 11% (AFL was 51,5,25, Rugby League, 38,4,13). Obviously soccer wins in the participation stakes, having as many as AFL and League combined, but falls down in the attendance area. Some soccer-related points: The only sports to record rises in participation were golf, basketball and soccer. Cricket was also the popular selection for Internet users with 31% using cricket sites, compared to 20% for AFL and soccer.

## THE SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA

**P**aul Kent from the Sunday Tele reports that Spirit media man Dave Mason was the victim of some high-spirited joking around on the plane back from NZ after the Kingz game. Apparently he got the 'ink in the headphones' gag, leaving him with black ears. Well, it's better than trashing taxis I'm sure you'll agree.

## C7 MORI PRESENTATION

**T**his Friday night Inside Soccer plan to present Damian Mori with a framed copy of the IS front page proclaiming his all-time NSL record a few weeks back. It will be made during C7's coverage, which features commentary by Greg Blake with former Socceroo captain Paul Wade.

## INSIDE SOCCER

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## Was Beardsley worth it? asks Greg Blake

**F**ar be it for me to knock a bloke who was a dead-set champion in his time, but any player as far past his use-by date as Peter Beardsley obviously is - by his own standards - has no place in the NSL.

Surely not these days anyway, when the standard of the league is every bit as healthy as you could expect from a national competition which is motoring along nicely despite the absence of 100 or more local champions now plying their trade as professionals overseas.

This nation is now a major exporter of world-class talent; proudly self-reliant and chasing public acceptance in its own right.

That won't happen by reinforcing the general public perception that our competition is second rate and lacking its own homegrown champions.

A combination of curiosity and the lure of a cross-town derby with top six significance dragged 11,000-plus to see his first game with the Melbourne Knights, but ultimately the competition was demeaned by Beardsley's presence.

That the 39-year was offered a family vacation and around \$40,000 to take the field for two plodding performances suggests that we are still very much a footballing backwater and a haven for mercenaries and has-beens.

And we know that simply isn't the case.

Just as perplexing is even some of



the devoted soccer public's apparent reverence towards anything British, yet treating our own with seeming indifference.

Should Mark Viduka make an NSL cameo these days you'd have to shift the match to the MCG to accommodate the fans.

As an audaciously talented kid with the Knights - when he won consecutive league top scorer and player of the year awards in the mid-90's - Viduka couldn't draw seagulls to the tip. Yet his regular on-field brilliance even then eclipsed anything Beardsley produced on his recent whistle-stop tour.

Guess we've still got some growing up to do.

## Czech Republic v Socceroos Inside Soccer's preview

By John Vrtaric

**A**ustralian national team coach Frank Farina takes another step on the road to the 2002 World Cup when the Aussies take on the Czech Republic in a friendly game to be played tomorrow night (Thursday morning, Sydney time) at the Na Stinadlech Stadium, Teplice.

This match provides Farina with the toughest test of his short reign as the national team supremo.

After a convincing 3-0 victory over a relatively weak Hungary team last month the Czech team is a step up in class.

Ranked number two in the world this is a class team that will be taking part in the European Championship at the end of the season having won all ten of its games in the qualifying stage.

It is a team that will be almost at full strength with the main absentee being the Liverpool-based Patrick Berger.

The Aussies are also below strength with two Olyroos, Steven Laybutt and Lucas Neill, selected instead for the Olyroo game against Holland (tonight).

Injury prevented Tony Vidmar from joining the original squad while Craig Moore is a late withdrawal due to a lingering injury suffered in a recent clash with fellow Aussie Mark Viduka.

Richard Johnson returns to the squad after missing out due to injury for the game against Hungary. Another wel-



come addition to the squad is Tony Popovic who was originally selected for the Chile tour but was forced out because of injury that also kept him out of the Hungary game.

With both Laybutt and Moore absent Popovic is expected to be given the chance to impress Farina by starting the game as the left side stopper in a 4-4-2 formation. Chile debutante Shaun Murphy will most likely be his partner with the two flanked by Kevin Muscat and Stan Lazaridis.

Captain Paul Okon (pictured) will anchor the midfield where he will face one of the midfielders that kept him out of the Lazio line-up most of the last Serie A season, Pavel Nedved.

Continued on page 24.

# We Want You!

**Enlist in the Power Army and Join us in  
our Campaign to make the Final Six**

## Parramatta Power v South Melbourne

**Friday 31 March "The Powerhouse"**  
Parramatta Stadium

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C  
7 sport

**GREG BLAKE**  
C7 SOCCER COMMENTATOR  
grblake@primus.com.au



**O**n South Melbourne's now unlikely bid to emulate Sydney City's still standing record of three consecutive NSL titles, it seems the Victorian club is already earmarking its recruiting targets for season 2000/2001, with general manager, Damien Phillips, suggesting the drift net has already been cast.

"We are conducting negotiations with the players we want who are coming out of contract at other clubs," he has admitted.

Shame the club wasn't as active in the recruiting area this time last season, when the march to back-to-back titles was on in earnest.

I'd like to attribute the quote to someone sagely but can't remember the source, but the sporting adage "if you're not going forward you're probably going backwards" is particularly relevant to South's current predicament.

When South Melbourne were struggling to keep pace in 1995/96 and early in 1996/97 the club either lured or blooded and persisted with the likes of Steve Iosifidis, Nick Orlic, Fausto De Amicis, Dave Clarkson, Con Blatsis, Michael Curcija, John Anastasiadis, Goran Lozanovski, Bill Damianos, Con Boutsianis and Tansel Baser.

Aggressive recruiting, yes?

Since they started winning the talent pool has dwindled, the losses of Michael Petkovic, Damianos, Boutsianis, Jason Polak, Baser etc. taking a toll.

With respect to Jimmy Tsekinis, Richie Alagich and Anthony Magnacca, since the silverware has been rolling home South Melbourne's recruiting has been lazy by comparison.

In an *Inside Soccer* edition back in September last year I suggested as much and that it might cost them.

To his personal credit coach, Ange

Postecoglou, stuck loyal to and stoically defended the remaining players who had formed the nucleus of his successive title-winning teams.

But in the same article last year I quoted a former South Melbourne championship player, then on the club's coaching staff.

"South Melbourne won the championship in 1997/98, but I don't think they know why they did," said the former Aussie international.

"It's no reflection on Ange Postecoglou, but the club itself didn't recognize that the seeds of this team were sown in the two years before that.

"They missed the finals in 1995/96 and things didn't look too good early in Ange's first full season and the administration panicked and went out to actively recruit the players they wanted.

"Since they started winning the club has not been proactive in this area at all."

If nothing else, there is a lesson well learned for South Melbourne out of this season.

I again pose the question that I did just one week ago in this column; just how do you judge the best coach of the season?

Last week I speculated on the various candidates for that award in season 1999/2000 but, thanks to a couple of fairly cranky E-mails from Melbourne Knights fans, it was pointed out that I had neglected to mention 'Mighty Moose', Vlado Vanis.

Which is fair enough, too.

Of course, the Knights won't even get a sniff of finals action again this year, but the big bloke has done a remarkable job all the same and has added the element of 'how the hell did he do that?' to the possible criteria when evaluating the

season's best coach.

As impressive as the playing record under 'Moose' is, it tells only part of the story.

In the recent weeks since he revived the ailing club's fortunes the Knights have rolled top six sides Perth and Carlton at home, won on the road at Newcastle, drawn at Perth and beaten top six aspirant Parramatta Power.

Going into last weekend Vanis is 7-6-5 as boss of a Knights side, which stunk the place up before he arrived.

But, as for the seriously demented E-mailer who insisted the Knights will still make this season's finals series, dream on.

And I'll get a run in the seniors for Leeds United this weekend.

**D**espite all the fuss being made of the ruck of clubs still clinging to play-off hopes, it must be noted that only seven clubs have filled the top six places since way back in mid-November.

For the past four and a half months only various combinations of the top seven NSL teams going into last weekend - Wollongong, Perth, Olympic, Marconi, Newcastle, Carlton and Brisbane - have filled the all-important positions on the ladder.

**F**air bit of fuss being made over dwindling NSL crowds this season, with Parramatta failing to hit the mark, Carlton's romance with Olympic Park on the skids, Northern Spirit's box office crash-dive and several other clubs sitting well below the impressive marks set in 1998/99.

However, it may not suggest gloom and doom for the NSL as much prove reflective of the general trend of local sport box-office appeal in this Olympic year.

Once-bloated AFL crowds have shown a significant dip early in 2000 - so much so that attendance figures have featured as much in the headlines as actual match news recently.

Similarly NBL crowds are slumping in that competition's first season since switching to a summer league.

Last week's game 3 semi-final decider between local rivals Victoria Titans and Melbourne Tigers drew just a handful more than 5,000 to the 15,000 capacity Melbourne Park.

During the NBL's boom period in the 1990's even a regular season game between these cross-town rivals would have enjoyed an audience of 10,000 or better.

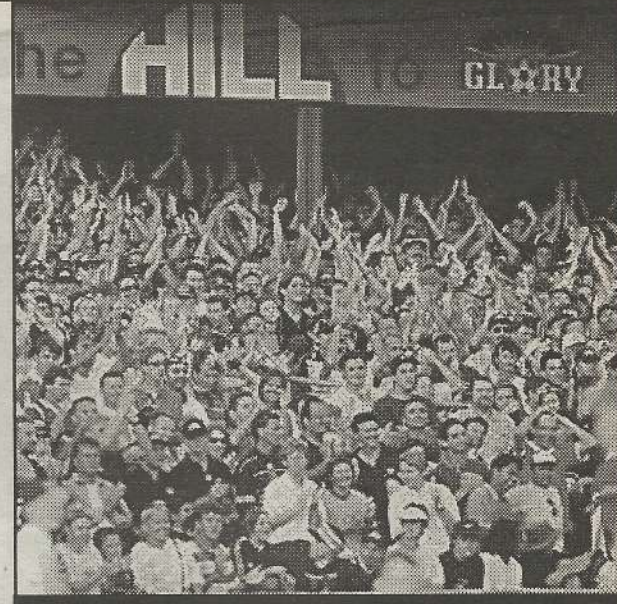
It seems we are not alone.

**P**erth's championship odds have drifted a couple of points since the club released firebrand Con Boutsianis to English club, Bolton Wanderers.

Interesting to see who coach, Bernd Stange, nominates to step up and fill the goalscoring boots of 'Bouts', who jagged 25 in Glory colors over the second half of last season and two thirds of the current campaign.

Bobby Despotovski is playing himself back into some sort of condition to partner evergreen Alistair Edwards, but neither he nor near-forgotten recruit Peter Buljan - who missed a huge chunk of the season with injury - appear primed to fill the void left by Boutsianis.

Irony or coincidence that Perth were held goal-less for only the second time this season at the Knights in round 26, the very week after Boutsianis packed his bags and high-tailed it to the airport?



Stats reveal that soccer is not the only sport in this country experiencing a drop in crowds.

**J**ust an inconsistency which perplexes me a little.

As has been the case several times this season, should an NSL referee credit the wrong player with scoring a goal in his match report on a game he can, at his discretion, revise that decision and have it officially changed if he informs the league in writing.

Presumably this procedure is done after the referee has had a chance to consult a videotape of the game.

That being the case, why then is it not possible to revise and reverse - in writing - decisions in regards other matters, such as the issuing of red and yellow cards that might not have been?

Whilst they obviously cannot reverse the game-day ramifications of a red card, it can affect subsequent suspensions.

I reckon the most topical example was the dismissal of Parramatta's Mark Byrnes at Perth in round 25, which probably even Stevie Wonder couldn't help but see that the kid had no intention of fouling Glory keeper, Jason Petkovic.

If there is a reason why such a seemingly sensible procedure can't be introduced, please let me know.

**C**arlton coach, Stuart Munro, believes the Melbourne club is falling shy of the mark for want of a sense of unity and team spirit.

"I believe - and I think the club knows - that there is long way to go if we are to become a real club," Munro says.

"It's so difficult to get a club feel for so many reasons, even playing at Olympic Park and having to train out at Doncaster.

"We hardly ever see the supporters or directors as such.

"Even team spirit with the players could be better if the players could spend a lot more time in each other's company.

"Hopefully it will come in time."

**Y**ou've gotta feel for 'Chi-Chi' Mendez, the little guy who can set a stadium alight.

The news that he might miss Olympic's finals campaign with that knee injury is an absolute body blow to player, club and especially fans.

No doubt about it, Mendez is a draw-card.

Maybe the little champ can take heart from Vel Kupresak's unlikely comeback for Sydney United recently.

Kupresak's NSL career was just about written off, but the United skipper's return to senior footy is due reward for a bloke who has spent most of his playing life devoted to one club, through thick and thin.

Oh, and nice goal in your comeback game, big fella

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# Oh, that court appearance

By Brett Klucznik

**C**on Boutsianis' future is no clearer despite his sudden departure from Perth Glory last week in search of fame and fortune in the UK with Bolton Wanderers. Having signed with the club last week, the midfielder was embroiled in further controversy as his international clearance was held-up by Glory, then, Bolton discovered that their new signing is required to appear in a Melbourne court mid-May to face criminal charges.

Boutsianis, who formally signed on loan with Wanderers until the end of the season on Wednesday, has already told Bolton fans that a major factor in his decision to move to the Reebok Stadium was the chance to play at the famous stadium.

But while manager Sam Allardyce is hoping the midfielder will be available for next month's F.A. Cup semi-final clash with Aston Villa, he fears that the 28-year-old could be forced to watch from the sidelines. "Any talk of a debut is on hold for the moment," Allardyce said.

"His international clearance has to come through and I don't know how long that will take."

Glory GM Roger Lefort has stated Boutsianis' clearance depends upon Bolton agreeing terms for the midfielder. "We have confirmed with Bolton just exactly what the terms of the agreement are. And once we get paid, we'll clear him."

But of bigger concern to Bolton is that Boutsianis is awaiting court proceedings in Melbourne.

The midfielder touched down in England last Friday with Bolton hoping he

could help its push to qualify for play-offs for promotion to the Premier League. But reports indicated that Boutsianis is expected to go to trial to face armed robbery charges in Melbourne County Court on May 15 - two days after the play-off series begins.

The news took Bolton by surprise. The English club looked into the matter only to have their worst fears confirmed late in the week.

With Boutsianis denying the charges, the club stood by their man and released a blunt statement after he signed with them which read: 'Everyone is innocent until proven guilty. Con Boutsianis is with the club until the end of the season.'

The often outspoken Allardyce lashed out at Glory on Thursday for not informing them of Boutsianis' up-coming trial as the issue threatened to escalate. He said it was "dodgy" of Perth to lend Boutsianis without mentioning the charges pending against him, which could rule him out of the play-offs for promotion to the Premier League.

He also indicated that the situation may be taken to governing body FIFA in the form of an official complaint. Allardyce said he had originally suspected dirty tricks by someone at Glory with a grudge against Boutsianis when the charges story arose.

But Lefort denied this in saying that his club had not told Bolton about the pending trial because Boutsianis rarely discussed the charges and the club did not know the full details. "If we are asked, then obviously we are obliged to give them any information, but there was never any request," he said.

Glory co-owner Nick Tana also dis-

missed suggestions that the loan of Boutsianis had been dealt with improperly and said that the club had little direct contact with Bolton as the deal was made through a third party. "Basically, from my point of view, it was just a routine transaction," Tana said. "We had no communication with Bolton except when we sent a letter asking them to acknowledge and confirm (the loan details.)"

"The contacts that we were using over here were fully aware of Con's situation ... we were not asked for a character reference, nor were we asked for the player's profile or anything like that."

He also believes it is the responsibility of the club seeking the player to do the necessary checks.

Interestingly, neither Boutsianis nor his agent found it necessary to inform Bolton of the court appearance.

A court source said that it was possible Boutsianis' barrister could apply for an adjournment, but added it was unlikely such an application could be made ahead of the scheduled date of the hearing and it would be expected the defendant would appear.

Boutsianis could also be in breach of bail conditions if he did not appear.

"We were hoping he would play for us if we get to the play-offs, but it depends on how this (the charges) is going to go now, now that all this has arisen," Allardyce said.

With a few training sessions under his belt with the club, the manager has so far been impressed with his new recruit and said that he is hoping Boutsianis can bring a new dimension and extra firepower to his team's game.

"We have worked with Con over the



Con Boutsianis: has impressed Bolton during his short stay in Lancashire.

last few days and he looks a very exciting prospect. He has a great touch on the ball and a reputation for goal scoring. I am sure that he will add to the current line up at the club as we prepare for Wembley and as we continue to move forward in the League."

The charges against Boutsianis stem from January 1998 when it was alleged he was the getaway driver in an armed robbery.

The case was discharged in December 1998 at a preliminary hearing when Magistrate Barbara Cotterell decided not to send Boutsianis and his co-defendant for trial because of a lack of evidence.

But it was later re-opened by Victoria's Office of Public Prosecutions and Boutsianis was arraigned in April of last year, pleading not guilty to the charge and an additional charge of false imprisonment.

At the time of the alleged offences Boutsianis was playing for South Melbourne and four months later scored the winning goal for the Lakers in the NSL final against Carlton.

He was released by the club on a free transfer and joined Perth Glory a few months later where he established himself as a club favourite.

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# MONZA-BOUND **MACCA**

By Roger Sleeman

**T**he video *Hard Men of English Football* was made to revere the talents of players like Vinnie Jones and Paul Ince, two of a number of much maligned characters in the game. The only transgression during their careers was an enthusiasm for the game, which the purists claimed was not in the spirit of fair play.

However, these players weren't always recognized for the important role they played as ball winners to create attacks.

At the same time, the former Sutherland product realizes there is a football world beyond the NSL and in August is jetting off to Italy for trials with struggling (currently third bottom) Serie B side Monza.

In this interview with Roger Sleeman, Darren McDonald reveals the real footballer behind the tough veneer, discusses his experiences in the NSL and his great ambition to succeed overseas.

**ROGER SLEEMAN:** Why have you been given the label of hard man, and would you prefer to be involved in a more creative midfield role?

tribution areas.

**R.S.** You are one of the few players who graduated from the Marconi Academy in 1994 who has made it in the NSL. Can you explain the reason for this?

**D.M.** There was some very good players in that squad like Michael Kladis, John Ghiso, Robert Gomes, Ian Pollari and Les Pocgliacom. The fact only a few have gone on to play regularly in NSL is a two edged sword.

Youth players see overseas players making the grade at seventeen or eighteen and they become impatient to play at the highest level.

What the local players forget is these boys have been full-time apprentices since the age of fifteen years. Under our semi professional set up it takes a lot longer for a youth player to reach the standard required for first team football.

I spent plenty of time in the youth team before I earned my spurs so it's all about patience.

On the other hand coaches are sometimes reluctant to play youth players if they can rely on the services of more experienced personnel.

**R.S.** Apart from the Griffiths brothers and Paul Kohler, you're the only Sutherland product playing in the NSL on a regular basis. What is the reason for this and do you think the proposed Cronulla Sutherland NSL team can provide the launching pad for the vast reservoir of talent in the Shire?

**D.M.** Perhaps the crucial factor is, they lack guidance. If you're not led in the right direction, there are many distractions away from football.

The talent is abounding in the Shire but there's no comprehensive talent scout system to identify elite players.

After playing for the Sutherland representative teams, I had to trial at St. George because nobody ever saw me. I was also fortunate to know prominent youth coach Johnny Haynes who took me to Parramatta Eagles and finally Marconi.

If you don't have the contacts it's hard to get a look in, which also accounts for the high drop out rate in the game at the fourteen to fifteen age group.

Certainly, the entry of the Cronulla Sutherland team would be a great boost for the juniors playing in the area, as they would finally have a team to aspire to.

I know some of the people in the consortium like Steve Kelly from the Shady Haze Company and they are dedicated to the success of the club if it gains entry to the NSL.

**R.S.** You were selected in the preliminary squad for the 1995 WYC. Why didn't you make the final squad?

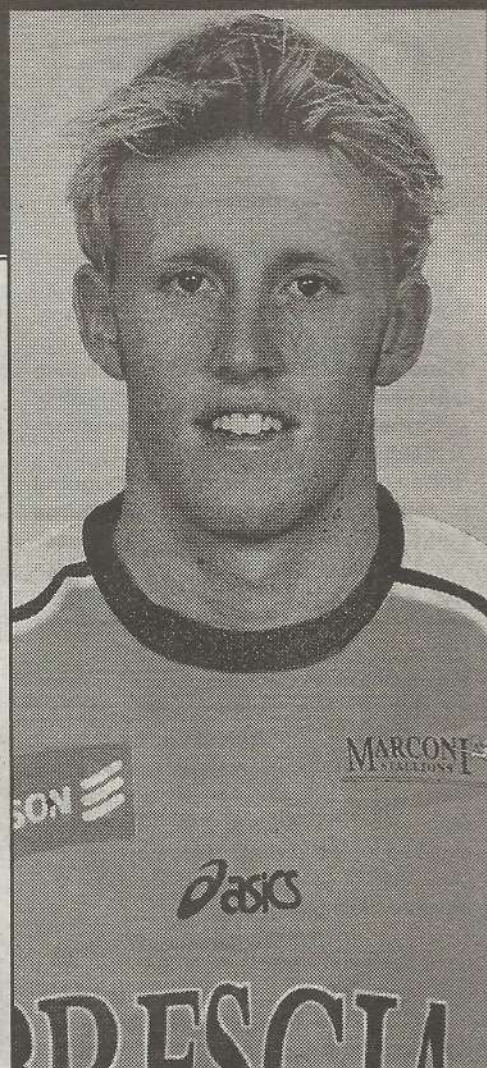
**D.M.** I went to South America but didn't produce the necessary form to gain selection. I can't really pinpoint the reasons but perhaps I just wasn't mature enough to play at that level at the time.

**R.S.** How do you rate the coaches you've played under at Marconi in the NSL?

**D.M.** They've all offered something different so they've contributed in a big way to my learning experience.

Manfred Schaefer, who gave me my first chance in the NSL, was very attacking minded because he knew we had the team to score goals and encouraged me to get forward as much as possible.

In contrast, Zoran Matic guaranteed me regular first team football if I could play a screening role in front of the back four where reliable ball distribution was a vital



Darren McDonald sizes up Brisbane's talented Wayne Shroff. "I'm a naturally aggressive player who gives 100% and I like to be involved in the thick of things," says Macca

Also, they were often limited in displaying their skills because of their defined team role.

For the last five seasons, Darren McDonald has played the role of hard man to perfection with Marconi but often to the chagrin of referees who question his aggression and total commitment to the team's cause.

Nevertheless, McDonald is now approaching the game with a new sense of maturity and is seen as a vital component in the Marconi machine.

**DARREN McDONALD:** It's not something I intended when I started to play football as a junior but because of my physical strength it developed as a matter of course.

I'm a naturally aggressive player who gives 100% and I like to be involved in the thick of things.

When you're winning possession in the tackle it adds to your confidence and although it's not always pretty to watch, a team playing without the ball is always going to be on the back foot.

I sometimes like to think I would relish the free role of Brad Maloney but if you're selected in a position and it's for the benefit of the team, that's what really counts.

It just happens that most coaches have seen my benefit to a team in the ball winning and dis-

element.

In many ways this matured me greatly as a footballer because I was an important link between defence and attack.

Frank Farina was a great players' coach and allowed me more freedom to get forward. I was still conscious of my ability as a ball winner so I didn't go too far forward to avoid upsetting the balance of the team and to ensure space was denied for the opposition.

Farina is a great motivator and our ten game unbeaten run to qualify for the top six last season was in large part a measure of his strong belief in the squad.

Eddie Krncevic offers a technical dimension to our game as he loves to build from the back and get all players involved with a concept of total football.

**R.S.** Do you expect to make the grade at Monza, and do you think you should've tried your luck a few years ago?

**D.M.** My agent has arranged a two-week trial but hopefully I can impress the club and extend that period.

It's a matter of being totally focussed in the time I'm there and who knows what can happen? The agent says the Serie B is more physical than the top division, which will be to my advantage.

I'm not going there with the thought "I'll walk straight into the first team."

I'd be content to play in the reserves at first to acclimatize to the weather and the lifestyle but I'd have to be thinking in terms of a regular first team spot by the end of the season.

The reason I didn't go earlier was because I didn't have the contacts but Marchesini and Di Gia, the Marconi imports, introduced me to their agent who was confident I could make the grade.

**R.S.** Would it be a dream come true to gain an overseas contract?

**D.M.** It's what every player dreams of because football has failed to realize its true potential in Australia.

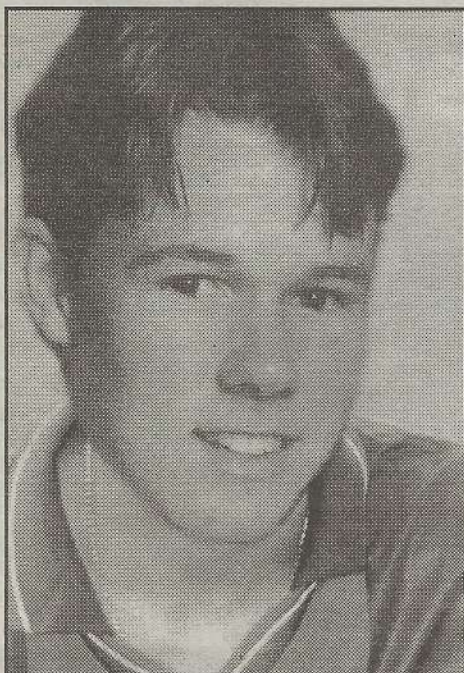
For the past five seasons I've been playing in the NSL and crowds at Marconi have remained at the 3,000-4000 level for home matches.

I've admired the exploits of players like Robbie Slater and Craig Johnston and the time is now right to fulfill my parents' overwhelming support and belief in my ability to become a professional footballer.

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Nadia Renaud reveals  
all to **DANIELA RACO**





Glenn Moore: now that he has completed his University commitments, he is excelling on the park for Newcastle Breakers

By Aidan Ormond

These days the Breakers dressing room is not just full of compliant fired up players ready to run through brick walls for coach Sterrey. There is also a dash of intellectualism thrown in for good measure. Three Breakers - Damian Smith, Andy Harper and Glenn Moore - have all finished their tertiary education.

"Yeah, Andy sometimes has to explain some of the words he has said on TV!" was Moore's analysis of Harper, who holds a Masters degree.

And if one was to also analyze the resurgent fortunes of Newcastle Breakers, the side's ability to not only defend stoutly but to score goals would have been noted. Hence Messrs. Harper and Buonavoglia have received, and quite rightly too, their due accolades in a team that is finally coming to fruition.

Glenn Moore, 23, meanwhile, has slipped quietly into his role as a central defender. He is a no fuss, efficient distributor from the back who is clearly comfortable on the

# Moore brain than brawn at Breakers

ball. In a team of hard workers he adds that touch of silk with his crisp passing and vision.

Even skipper Shane Pryce has been pushed out wide to accommodate Moore, which is no mean feat given the captain's form this season.

Teammate Andy 'The General' Roberts said Moore was highly regarded. "His maturity is beyond his young years. He is a rock of Gibraltar at the back with excellent distribution. He is an important member of our squad as we challenge for a finals berth."

That Moore - born and bred in Newcastle - is a relative unknown on the national stage is largely due to the player's commitment to education. He graduates in May this year after finishing a computer science and programming degree last year.



You could say he is currently in his second phase of his NSL career. In the pre-LS days (Lee Sterrey) at Breakers, Moore spent a good deal of time playing in the local leagues "until I got my University degree out of the way."

After playing for the Breakers youth team the ex-NNSW junior joined West Wallsend (a first division side) before rejoining the Breakers in a first team capacity between 1995 and 1997. By that stage he had begun his tertiary career. After that he joined Broadmeadow and Edgeworth while finishing his study.

"Yeah, it was frustrating when I originally played for the Breakers because I couldn't put the full effort

in to both. So basically I gave the NSL a miss for a few years until I had finished," explained Moore.

"If you break a leg in soccer and you don't have a good qualification it could be difficult for your life. Study was something my parents emphasized was important.

"I think it's meaningful to have an interest outside of soccer... to keep your mind ticking over. Professional footballers have a lot of time on their hands and so it channels your energy in other areas and keeps your mind busy."

And Lee Sterrey himself is not averse to using brainpower to get the best out of his side.

"Lee Sterrey focuses a lot on the mental approach to the game," Moore observed. "He says the game is largely played above the neck. He also takes time to study opposition sides."

"Since Lee has come here he has tried to instill pride in the jumper. The results are backing that up."

"Yes we've slipped up in the last few weeks," said Moore of the losses against Knights and Force, "but who would have thought at the start of the year we would have been challenging for a top two spot."

"I like playing sweeper but we at the moment we play a flat back four. This system gives us an extra option in midfield and that has helped us enormously."

Moore is not inclined to speculate about his footballing future because "you don't know what can happen."

The top six for Breakers is his only priority right now. The rest is just academic.

\*Breakers play Cosmos tonight (Tuesday) in Newcastle.

# Stange denies Dortmund link

By Brett Klucznik



With his future at Perth Glory still under a cloud, Bernd Stange has been linked to the coaching job with German first division club Borussia Dortmund.

In February the club sacked Micheal Skibbe and the coaching position is being filled by Bernd Krauss until the end of the season.

While the German media have Stange (pictured) high on the list of contenders for the vacant role, the Glory coach says that he has not been in contact with the club regarding the appointment.

"I have never heard anything from Borussia Dortmund... nobody has spoken to me. It is just speculation at this stage."

But Stange said it is an honour to be connected with such a club, "Borussia Dortmund is one of the best teams in the world... I heard the speculation and was absolutely surprised. All the time they take coaches who are not so successful. Now I hear Borussia Dortmund is looking for a successful coach."

Stange is yet to agree terms with Glory on a one-year extension on his current contract. "It is still not clear what I will do with Perth Glory after one year," he said.

"My personal aim is to win the championship and maybe play in the Club World Championship."

Stange has now been waiting for four weeks to hear from club chairman Nick Tana, who has promised to explain the role he sees Stange taking with the club beyond the contract extension.

It is rumoured that the role will encompass establishing Perth Glory along the lines of a professional European outfit with a juniors system, training facilities, club house and the like.

The club are keen to sign a couple of players in the next week with Fremantle City's Gary Faria a likely target. Faria spent last month on loan to Glory and has recently been invited back to train with the squad one night a week.

They also tried to lure Marconi captain Brad Maloney west a couple of weeks ago with a deal worth \$25,000, but the Stallions refused the deal and said Maloney was not on the market at any price.

In addition, Glory is already looking towards next season and have confirmed they are interested in talented South Melbourne pair Steve Iosifidis and Michael Curcija, both who are out of contract in July.

You gotta hand it to Breakers' sales and marketing manager Marty McLean. He's got a vision and it's pretty impressive.

"My goal is to fill the whole Eastern Stand with corporate boxes. I've built a new row of boxes this season in the open section in front of the enclosed corporate area."

"I've got a waiting list at the moment and I'm building three boxes at a time. I am also looking into possibly doing some super boxes," McLean said after the club announced its five company sponsorship deal last week.

"With the support of Newcastle's business community I think it can be achieved."

"I'd also like to see the western stand side of Breakers Stadium become the members only area in the long-term."

Retravision/Hunter Group, Nestle Peters, Holiday Inn, Rover Coaches and Garden City have joined the club for the remainder of the season in a cash and cross-pro-

motional deal that may extend into next season.

"Breakers want to form strategic alliances in the future," explained McLean. "For example we hope that we can sell Breakers tickets at Retravision stores."

"We also want to eventually have our own store. With Rover Coaches we have shuttle buses to our games with our logo on the side. And of course we will be frequenting the Holiday Inn for functions and accommodation around Australia and Nestle has been selling its products at Breakers Stadium."

He added that the club's success has bred the increased corporate interest. "With the increased profile of Breakers in Newcastle it has been easier for us to attract sponsors."

"Our crowds have almost doubled from last year, even after the Newcastle Knights have started playing in the NRL. The press coverage has also dramatically increased."

Aidan Ormond



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# AUSSIES on the world stage

A round-up of how our Aussies players fared abroad this last week ...

## V-bomber grounded

**T**he tense relationship between Australian first choice keeper Mark Bosnich and his Manchester United boss, Alex Ferguson, is still up and down after the Aussie's performance over the past week.

A towering display during the Champions Cup 0-0 draw in Valencia must have told Ferguson that Bosnich can now handle the pressure of filling Peter Schmeichel's gloves. Ferguson, clearly impressed with Bosnich, but restrained in his praise, said: "I thought Mark did very well. It was a good, steady performance by him. Valencia are a very good side, good enough to get to the final in my opinion, and it was important that we got through the first 20 or 30 minutes without conceding a goal. Mark helped us do that."

United could have afforded to lose by two goals and still come first in their group, but Bosnich certainly needed to be at his best to survive an early Valencia onslaught. The inspired keeper denied Gerard, Kily Gonzalez and Juan Sanchez in a nervy first half for the Premiership leaders.

But in the weekend Premier League game, in which United won 0-4 at Bradford, Bosnich had another of those 45 minutes he would like to forget as he first spilled Peter Beagrie's 30-yard drive and but for Phil Neville, City striker Jorge Cadete would have pounced on the rebound.

The Australian international then looked in dreamland as he dwelled on a simple pass back, which allowed Cadete - starting his first game for Bradford - to close him down, with Bosnich lucky to see his late clearance cannon into touch.

Hertha Berlin's exit from the Champions Cup in their 0-1 home loss to Porto was without the injured Aussie Joe Simunic. However, Simunic starts full training this week, and hopes to work his way into the first team in the next few weeks.

The talented youngster has played just 130 minutes of competitive league soccer in three years since he fractured his foot against Gippsland Falcons playing for the Melbourne Knights in February 1997.

Australia's other representative in the Champions League, national team captain

Paul Okon, saw some action for a change as he came on in the 73rd minute in Fiorentina's 3-3 home draw with Bordeaux (who advanced at Okon's team's expense.)

In Fiorentina's 1-2 away win over Perugia in the weekend Serie A game Okon was back in his usual spot, warming the bench for the duration of the game.

Amidst further speculation about his international future Harry Kewell was again to the forefront of Leeds United's progress to the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup. Even though they lost 2-1 away to Slavia Prague Kewell scored another goal as he timed his run to perfection to beat the offside trap before a first-time left-foot shot from 15 yards beat Slavia keeper Radek Cerny.

The jewel in Leeds' crown again sparkled, scoring his 15th goal of the season - his fifth in Europe - and his fifth in successive games.

The Australian international is now proving a lethal weapon up front, with O'Leary spot-on in his judgement that Kewell was made for the role, though some 'experts' consider a deeper lying role as the best option for him.

The 21-year-old has relished playing as a striker after being switched from his previous left-wing role earlier this year, and there now seems no stopping him - nor his soaring transfer value.

Kewell was again in good form scoring in the 38th minute for the sixth time in as many games in Leeds' 2-1 away loss to Leicester.

Mark Schwarzer played a full game and was again in impressive form as Middlesbrough beat Sheffield Wednesday 1-0 to steer themselves away from the danger zone.

Richard Johnson also played the full game in Watford's home 1-1 draw with Tottenham but they need wins, not draws, as they linger at the bottom of the Premier League table.

In the Nationwide First Division, the Aussies were busy with a number of games played midweek as well as the weekend action.

In the midweek games Shaun Murphy played a full game as Sheffield United were

beaten 2-0 away to Bolton but was absent from the squad in the weekend's 1-2 home loss to Birmingham.

Fellow Aussie Stan Lazaridis was instrumental in both Birmingham goals before he was replaced in the 78th minute. He applied the pressure to a defender who steered the ball into the net for an own first goal and then provided the cross for the second goal.

Jason Van Blerk played a full game in West Brom's 2-0 midweek away loss to Portsmouth but was absent in his team's 2-1 away loss to Manchester City.

City had Danny Tiatto playing the full game even though he is having groin and shoulder problems which should not prevent him from taking his place for the Australian national team against the Czech Republic tomorrow.

This was City's first win for eight games and followed a 2-2 away draw at Stockport in midweek, a game that Tiatto missed because of his injuries.

Kevin Muscat was in the Wolverhampton line-up midweek as they won 2-0 at home over Crewe Alexandra for whom Aussie Jason Kearton was in goals. Muscat was also part of his team's 2-2 home draw with Stockport on the weekend.

In Crewe's 3-0 weekend loss to Huddersfield Kearton was replaced in the 83th minute.

Craig Foster proved his fitness for the Czech Republic game when he came on in the 60th minute for Crystal Palace's 0-1 home loss to leaders Charlton.

Frank Talia was in goals for luckless Swindon as they crumbled 4-1 away to Portsmouth to remain firmly entrenched at the bottom of the ladder.

In the Second Division Lucas Neill was away with the Olyroo team as his team, Millwall, had a 1-1 away draw with Wrexham in a mid-week game and on the weekend a 3-0 home win over second placed Bristol Rovers, whom they trail now by only three points although they have played one game extra.

Tim Cahill played a full game in both of Millwall's matches.

Steve Mautone was the substitute keeper in both of Gillingham's games - a 0-1



Frank Talia: one of a number of Aussie goalkeepers playing in England.

away win in the midweek match and a 2-1 away loss on the weekend.

In the Scottish Premier League another Rangers-Celtic game took place but without Craig Moore who succumbed to injuries sustained in his last clash with Aussie teammate, Mark Viduka.

Rangers also had their other Aussie defender Tony Vidmar out due to injury so it was left to Viduka to represent the Aussie contingent in the big game.

The Big V didn't have one of his best game being well held by Lorenzo Amoroso, and copping a yellow card into the bargain, as Rangers thrashed Celtic 4-0.

Stuart Lovell played a full game in Hibs' 1-0 loss away to Kilmarnock but Chris Coyne, who has agreed to a loan deal with Hibs (from West Ham reserves), was absent due to Olyroo duty.

Frank Juric who has recently taken over as number one keeper at Bayer Leverkusen, who are joint top in the Bundesliga with Bayern Munich, tore his triceps muscle in training during the week, and is likely to miss about two weeks.

It is very unfortunate for Frank who recently edged out Polish national team keeper Adam Matyssek for the keeping job, and was keen to work his way back into the Socceroo squad.

In 1860 Munchen's 2-0 away loss to third placed Hamburg Ned Zelic played a full game in his favoured sweeper role while Paul Agostino remained on the bench.

In Croatia Ante Milicic came on in the 79th minute during his team Rijeka's 2-1 loss away to Istra Pula.

## Olyroos lose first game

**T**he Olyroos lost the first of their two European matches last Wednesday, going down 1-0 to Slovakia in Bratislava.

In a fairly physical encounter, the Australians conceded the goal a minute before half time, Marek Mintal scoring the match winner for the Slovaks after a scramble in the box.

Coach Raul Blanco wasn't too concerned about the result. He commented: "The Slovakian team came out and played a very physical game, and that is something that we can and will encounter at the Olympics, so it was a tremendous experience to play an opponent like that now."

"That's what we're here for, to make sure we play and encounter different styles of football, in order to keep learning, and this game taught the team the lesson of adapting to the way your opponents play the game, which we adapted to late in the first half and for the second half, where we matched them in every department."

"We've played against South American, African and Asian opponents, and now we're playing the Europeans and will benefit in the long run, because Europe always presents a wonderful challenge, and our aim is to accumulate experience

against different types of opposition, and be intelligent enough to deal with anyone we come up against in September."

Captain Brett Emerton added: "Unfortunately we were a little unsettled for the first half hour of the match or so, because they took the game to us instead of us taking the game to them. Once we settled down, we started to play a lot better, and that was evident in the second half."

"We had some good chances during the course of the game, one which fell to Michael Curcija after he got on the end of a cross in the first half, and another which could have resulted in a goal from a Clayton Zane header, but in the end we couldn't find the back of the net."

"They played a different style of football to what we may be more used to playing against."

**Lineup:** Joe Didulica, Tansel Baser, Stephen Laybutt (Chris Coyne 30'), Buddy Farah, Con Blatsis, Brett Emerton (c), Jason Culina (Marco Bresciano 71'), Vince Grella (Lucas Neill 75'), Nick Rizzo (Kasey Wehrman 46'), Michael Curcija (Kosta Salapasidis 60'), Clayton Zane.

**Yellow Cards:** Grella 40, Zane 41, Farah 89

## Coach Vest the star?

By Scott O'Donnell in Singapore

**T**he Australians playing here had mixed results this week in round three.

Defending champions Home United scored their first win of the season against Tampines Rovers 2-1.

Home who once again went into the match without eight first team regulars, including former Socceroo Ernie Tapai, fought hard against a full strength Tampines side.

The win must have been even sweeter for the Home United players after Tampines striker, Esad Sedjic was quoted in the press saying that they were going to "kill" Home United this week.

Unfortunately for Sedjic, not only did they lose the game but he was also substituted in the 71st minute.

The Geylang Eagles continue to fly high undefeated after their unconvincing 3-1 win over Clementi Khalsa. Alan Vest's team were down 1-0 when he made three substitutions in the 55th minute.

This seemed to do the trick, and Geylang soon took control of the match with young national striker Indra Shadan scoring a hat-trick.

When asked after the match if he could take credit for the win after making the timely substitutions, Vest replied that he would have taken the whole team off if he could have.

He added that "it is a load of crap" that coaches should take the praise when they make substitutions that seem to turn the game.

Marine Castle's Aussies, Michael Garcia and Anthony Carbone did not fare too well after they were comprehensively beaten 2-0 by SAFFC. Mirko Jurilj's Sembawang Rangers were also handed a hiding, courtesy of Tanjong Pagar 4-1.

Darren Stewart's Balestier Central remain on the bottom of the table after their 1-0 loss to Jurong. Balestier can consider themselves slightly unlucky as Jurong's goal was scored with the help of the referee.

A harmless looking header looked to be going out for a goal-kick, but the referee got in the way and the ball landed at the feet of a Jurong striker, who could not believe his luck and slotted the ball home!

In the remaining game, Woodlands Wellington remain winless after their 0-1 defeat at the hands of Gombak.



# Card update

PLAYERS:	Y	R	Tot
1 Harry James	8	1	9
2 Jamie Harwell	9	0	9
3 Che Bunco	7	2	9
4 Troy Halpin	6	2	8
5 Jacob Burns	7	1	8
6 GoranLozanovski	7	1	8
7 Nick Meredith	7	1	8
8 Vince Savoca	7	1	8
9 Danny Burt	8	0	8
10 Gabriel Mendez	8	0	8
11 Andy Vargas	8	0	8
12 Dean Fak	8	0	8
13 Walter Ardone	5	2	7
14 Manny Gotis	6	1	7
15 Robert Liparoti	6	1	7
16 Dino Mennillo	6	1	7
17 Mark Silic	6	1	7
18 Jason Vukadin	6	1	7
19 Chris Jackson	7	0	7
20 Darren McDonald	7	0	7
21 Stuart McLaren	7	0	7
22 Claudio Pelosi	7	0	7

CLUBS:			
1 SthM	85	6	71
2 Canb	60	6	66
3 Marc	60	6	66
4 SOly	61	4	65
5 PPwr	57	6	63
6 Kngz	55	7	62
7 MKni	51	7	58
8 WWol	53	4	57
9 SUtd	51	5	56
10 Gpsl	51	3	55
11 PGry	46	6	52
12 BStr	49	2	51
13 AdlC	48	3	51
14 NSpr	37	4	41
15 Carl	34	4	38
16 Newc	34	2	36
TOTAL	812	75	887

	Home	Away	Total
Yellows	363	449	812
Reds	26	49	75
Total	389	498	887

REFEREES:	G	Y	R	Aver
1 Mathew Breeze	27	109	14	4.6
2 Simon Micallef	23	89	5	4.1
3 Con Diomis	23	103	8	4.8
4 Gerry Connolly	23	55	7	2.7
5 Brett Hugo	22	90	10	4.5
6 Eddie Lennie	21	95	4	4.7
7 Mark Shield	21	96	9	5.0
8 Jeremy Blaney	13	30	3	2.5
9 David Dwight	12	43	3	3.8
10 Derek Rugg	7	23	6	4.1
11 Perry Mur	8	13	1	1.8
12 Wayne Dade	6	33	2	5.8
13 Brian Precious	6	29	3	5.5
14 Craig Zetter	1	4	0	4.0

# Has sanity prevailed with refs?

By Greg Blake

See, sometimes the people can move mountains - or at least give 'em a bit of a nudge. No official policy - of course - but I have it on good authority from a pal in the refereeing fraternity that public pressure in the wake of that early-season spate of frenzied red and yellow card bingeing by our NSL refs was enough to ensure a slight return to some degree of sanity.

"There's no doubt just about everybody was becoming overly conscious of media and public opinion," he told me.

"I don't think anything changed dramatically, but I do believe some people did a bit of self-appraisal and maybe re-evaluated the way they were approaching things.

Soccer Australia should note that said informant insisted on complete anonymity and would only talk to the media with his head shrouded in a paper shopping bag, complete with cut-out eye holes.

It must be said that the numbers do suggest a change of attitude.

A ridiculous 48 red cards in the three months and 13 NSL rounds between the start of the season in October and the end of 1999, compared to just 28 in the subsequent 13 rounds spanning January, February and March of the year 2000.

Well done all round.

## NSL TOP SCORERS:

MICHAEL CURCIJA 16	
(South Melbourne)	
PABLO CARDOZO 16	
(Sydney Olympic)	
CON BOUTSIANIS (PG)	13
ALEX MOREIRA (C)	12
DAMIAN MORI (ACF)	12
STUART YOUNG (WC)	12

### CROWD COMPARISON:

Cumulative to Round 24

99/00: 1,056,846

98/99: 1,040,084

### Fixture changes:

\*Please note that the Marconi Stallions and Perth Glory game in Sydney will be played on Good Friday April 21 kick-off 6pm (in place of the original Easter Saturday)



Francis Awaritefe: back in Marconi's side and scoring goals.

NSL match reports and analysis follows on the next nine pages. Quotes of the week is on page 26 with the Four Diegos



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	(OVERALL)							(HOME)							(AWAY)						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L
PERTH GLORY	27	14	7	6	50	36	49	14	9	3	1	31	16	5	4	5	19	20			
Wollongong Wolves	27	13	8	6	56	38	47	18	9	1	4	30	19	4	7	2	26	19			
Sydney Olympic	27	14	5	8	48	31	47	17	7	4	2	30	14	7	1	6	18	17			
Marconi Stallions	27	13	6	8	39	33	45	6	7	2	4	18	15	6	4	4	21	18			
Newcastle Breakers	26	12	7	7	36	31	43	5	7	4	2	24	16	5	3	5	12	15			
Carlton	27	12	6	9	42	32	42	10	7	4	3	22	13	5	2	6	20	19			
Adelaide Force	26	10	7	9	37	28	37	9	7	3	3	26	14	3	4	6	11	14			
Brisbane Strikers	27	10	7	10	34	31	37	3	6	4	3	23	13	4	3	7	11	18			
South Melbourne	26	10	6	10	40	40	36	0	7	3	3	23	12	3	3	7	17	28			
Melbourne Knights	27	10	6	11	30	43	36	-13	6	2	5	14	14	4	4	6	16	29			
Parramatta Power	26	10	5	11	42	37	35	5	6	4	3	23	15	4	1	8	19	22			
Football Kingz	26	10	5	11	43	48	35	-5	6	3	4	23	21	4	2	7	20	27			
Northern Spirit	27	10	3	14	33	45	33	-12	7	2	5	18	19	3	1	9	15	26			
Gippsland Falcons	27	6	8	13	17	33	26	-16	3	4	6	10	14	3	4	7	7	19			
Canberra Cosmos	26	6	7	13	34	49	25	-15	4	3	6	17	17	2	4	7	17	32			
Sydney United	27	4	5	18	16	42	17	-26	4	3	8	13	20	0	2	10	3	22			



# Seal's form a positive for Spirit

## NORTHERN SPIRIT 2

Seal 41, Ryan Griffiths 73

## GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0

Friday night at North Sydney Oval, Sydney. Crowd 3,481



### MATCH STATS:



**NORTHERN SPIRIT:** P Henderson, M Rudan, R Enes, M Bingley, M Cunico (I Crook 65), T Cranney, M Langdon (S Lyons 87), N Berti, R Slater, D Seal, S Catanzaro (R Griffiths 56).



**GIPPSLAND FALCONS:** B Jevdjovic, D Fak, D Marcina, M Durakovic, A Vargas (A Savage 87), S Robertson (I Nilo 68), C

Bell, J Hutchinson, J Nilo, I Mandic (R Puca 46), B MacNicol.

### Yellows:

**Falcons:** Dean Fak 68, Mehmed Durakovic 86.

### Best Players:

**3 DAVID SEAL (SPIRIT)**  
2 Mark Rudan (Spirit)  
1 Mehmed Durakovic (Falcons)

Referee: Con Diomis

A game which Spirit coach Graham Arnold described afterwards as 'low' produced a 2-0 win to Northern Spirit and in the process avenged a loss for his side by the same score at Morwell earlier in the year.

Another small crowd, still in good voice, saw a good amount of energy expended by both sides, but with that there was no loss of finesse.

To be fair, however, both teams attacked throughout and goals were there for the taking.

The two that the home side scored came as the result of poor defending, but at least one of them also showed that in striker David Seal they do have a player nearing his best again.

Seal is now displaying all the attributes a good finisher should have in abundance; anticipation, positional sense and an ability to hit the target.

In recent games Seal has been doing just that and while he may not reach his own pre-season target of 20, he has reached nine now and is heading well into double figures on this form.

Gippsland looked good for most of the first half and defended well, with typical good organisation which always makes it very difficult for opponents to create any real chances inside the penalty area.

They cut out the crosses and were quicker to the ball in most of that period, firm in the tackle and willing to mount attacks when they had possession.

All that changed in the 41st minute when they took a throw just inside their own half.

Manny Gotis elected to throw long into his own defensive third, towards the waiting Mehmed Durakovic, but the former Soccerroo was unable to reach the poorly directed ball and, instead, the lurking Seal ghosted in behind him and blasted a shot from 20 yards into the bottom right corner of Bojo Jevdjovic's net.

It was the breakthrough the home side needed, as Gippsland had not given them a sniff until then.

Seal's ability, on the other hand, to sniff out chances within 20 yards of goal had paid off. It is this quality which his coach Arnold felt was his biggest asset earlier in the season and it proved invaluable on this occasion.

In the second half Gippsland were far less authoritative and with Ian Crook coming on for Michael Cunico and Ryan Griffiths replacing Simon Catanzaro early in that period

Spirit began to take over and look by far the better side.

There were several good strikes on goal by the home team, which the keeper did well to save, but it was his mistake which presented Spirit with their second and clinching goal in the 73rd minute.

Matthew Langdon lofted the ball

toward goal from out on the touchline, just inside the Gippsland half, and when the ball arrived in the area its high bounce deceived the keeper who had come racing off his line, despite the close proximity of a defender.

The keeper and the defender appeared to hinder one another and the ball bounced beyond the pair, leaving Spirit's free substitute, Ryan Griffiths, to place the loose ball into an empty net.

Gippsland had chances early on with Brian MacNicol firing wide in the 12th minute after Clayton Bell had won the ball down the left and pushed the ball through a narrow opening.

Mark Rudan was dominant in the air at the heart of the defence but also got forward regularly especially late in the game, to the consternation of his coach who was concerned about exposure to late raids.

Early in the match Rudan headed a Langdon corner just wide at the near post and also set up Griffiths right near the end with a shot which the youngster scraped past the post from an impossible angle.

It was Rudan and the return of Matthew Bingley which gave Spirit some stability at the back and it compensated for a midfield which took its time to gain control.

Seal had shots deflected and a header just over the bar in the first half, but equally Andy Vargas and Igor Mandic had efforts which missed narrowly and MacNicol also headed wide in a relatively even first 40 minutes.

After the goal broke the deadlock Northern Spirit gained much needed confidence and the first part of the second half saw Robbie Slater bring out a top save from Jevdjovic who dived across his goal to snatch a fierce drive from the evergreen captain.

Seal burst upfield in the 61st to test the keeper again with a slashing shot which came after Gippsland had been denied twice in quick succession by Paul Henderson at the other end.

Robbie Puca got the ball over from the left and a misdirected header by MacNicol at the far post was cut out by the keeper and fell to John Hutchinson whose follow up shot was blocked brilliantly by the keeper at his near post.

Shots continued to rain in at both



David Seal: his predatory instincts shone through.

ends with the two keepers making relatively straightforward saves to prevent Slater, Crook, Bell and Hutchinson from getting on the scoresheet.

It may be fanciful at this late stage to mention Northern Spirit and finals football in the same breath, though mathematically it is still possible, if very unlikely. At least Arnold has the players showing reasonable form at home now, with only one of their last eight at home a loss (and that was to Wollongong.)

It is a good platform for a late surge towards the top half of the ladder, a factor which ought to get the crowds back to North Sydney Oval.

And in David Seal the club now has a striker who had netted eight of his nine goals in his most recent appearances and could well bag a whole lot more in the coming weeks.

He was the Man of the Match this time, a far cry from his exasperating early season form.



Mark Rudan: the big guy had a strong game, constantly pushing up and creating danger.

By Paul Goodwin

**F**or once, on a Friday night, Northern Spirit capitalised on mistakes by the opposition and carried off all the points, a rare change for them, as it has unfortunately been more their custom to give hand-outs of their own.

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# Colosimo's return caps red letter day for Blues

## CARLTON 3

Marth 47, 48, Vasilevski 95.

## PERTH GLORY 1

Despotovski 68.

Friday night at Olympic Park, Melbourne. Crowd 1,749.



### MATCH STATS



**CARLTON:**  
Anastasiadis; Horvat,  
Douglas, McPherson,  
Atkinson, Marth  
(Colosimo 76),  
Lapsansky, Vasilevski,  
Thompson, Packer (Slater 87),  
Markovski (Moreira 81).



**PERTH GLORY:**  
Petkovic; Thorp,  
Valle (Afkos),  
Harnwell, Trajkovski,  
Miller, Naven, Ergic  
(Despotovski 46),  
Edgar Junior, Edwards, Aurelio  
Schwartz.

**Yellows:** Nil

**Carlton:** Horvat 55, Douglas 57.

**Perth:** Valle 24.

**BEST PLAYER:**

3. MARTH (CARL)

2. Lapsansky (CARL)

1. Packer (CARL)

**Referee:** Mathew Breeze

By Kevin Christopher

Carlton captain Andrew Marth showed once again why he is one of the most respected players in the NSL with a dynamic midfield performance which inspired his team to a 3-1 win over the highly-fancied Perth Glory on Friday night.

But earlier in the day there was doubt over whether the veteran would even take the pitch.

A dose of the flu delayed his decision until noon, but the bug didn't prevent him producing a typically stirring performance before being substituted late in the game.

His job was made a little easier by the continued absence of Kasey Wehrman, Troy Halpin and of course Con Boutsianis in the Perth midfield, but the tenacity of Marth would surely have won

the day in any case.

Dion Valle received a yellow for an untidy challenge on the Blues' skipper midway through the first half, just after Gareth Naven had given it his best shot.

But despite copping as much as he dished out, Marth shrugged off the attention and shortly after the interval produced two thunderous volleys to give his team the self-belief so evidently lacking in recent months.

Until that point Perth had hung on grimly enough, and although Jason Petkovic was called on to produce important saves from a Packer shot and a Marth glancing header, Carlton were failing to convert possession into golden chances.

As is so often the case sometimes, the breakthrough came via route one. Steve Horvat launched a long ball down the inside right channel and Andrew Marth ran into the space and belted a right foot volley past the stunned Petkovic.

The goal ignited the home team and within a minute they had doubled their lead. Lapsansky took the ball deep down the left flank and pushed a dangerous ball back across the front of the six yard box.

Vasilevski's header was stopped on the line by Hamilton Thorp, but the block fell nicely for Marth who slammed it home from edge of the eighteen yard box.

By now Carlton were playing excellent football and although Horvat and Douglas were booked in quick succession for fouls on substitute Bobby Despotovski, the manner in which Packer, Markovski and Vasilevski were combining led you to think that a drubbing could be on the cards.

Markovski had a tap-in disallowed for offside, but the most glaring miss came when McPherson managed to balloon the ball over the bar from less than two metres out after Packer had stepped over a Markovski cross.

With Carlton in complete control the match was turned on its head after sixty-

eight minutes when Edgar Junior came forward from midfield and fired a hopeful salvo.

His shot hit the back of Despotovski's leg on the edge of the penalty area, but the proven goalscorer had the presence of mind and skill to curl the ball around the outstretched Anastasiadis and in off the post.

A brilliant individual effort and a rare occasion when execution matched ambition.

The stage was now set for a story-book finish, and with fifteen minutes to go Munro decided to rest his captain and re-introduce Simon Colosimo to senior football for the first time since THAT tackle.

The roar of approval from the Carlton faithful made a mockery of the official attendance figure of 1,749, but the Blues were suddenly looking edgy and Perth, having been given a sniff, came forward in numbers.

Edgar and Miller combined to force Anastasiadis to save well while Harnwell and Edwards were also happy to try their luck from long range.

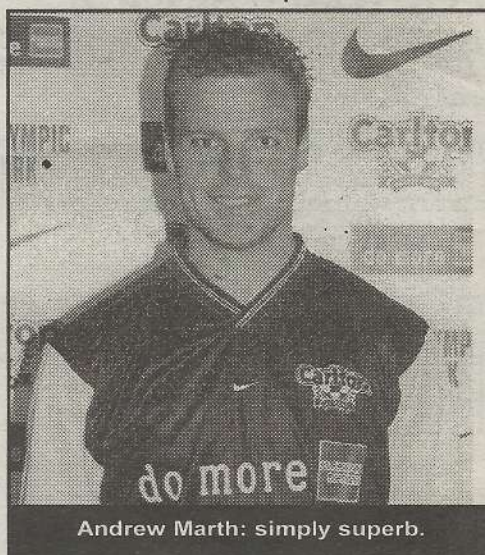
Deep into injury time, Despotovski was the man who went closest to spoiling the Blues party. He came up with a superb chip from the edge of the penalty area which eluded Anastasiadis, but the ball clipped the bar and bounced about a yard in front of the goal line allowing Horvat to clear.

Then Simon Colosimo decided enough was enough. He picked up a pass in midfield and took off on a diagonal run into space, but having found some room his next touch was too heavy, Petkovic came racing out and looked odds on to collect the ball.

But somehow the ball squirted loose and Daniel Vasilevski had the simple task of slotting the ball into an empty net from twelve metres.

The two goal margin certainly didn't flatter the Blues, and although not quite smiling, Stuart Munro was relieved that his team had finally fired on most cylinders.

"It was a good victory for us. I felt for the first hour of the game we played as well as we've played at Olympic Park this season.



Andrew Marth: simply superb.

"We're too inconsistent a team to say we're back on track. But it was a great result, a great performance."

As well as praising his captain's effort, Munro was also pleased with the performance of makeshift striker Andrew Packer, and as he pointed out, with matches against Canberra and Sydney Utd ahead the opportunity is there for his team to consolidate a spot in the top six.

"Our strikers have been struggling, we know that, so we had to do something else and I felt we can get goals from midfield."

"We've got a lot of midfield players who can score goals and we played Andrew Packer in a friendly game (at Heidelberg) on Wednesday night and he scored three goals playing in a similar position and I know it's the type of thing he can do well."

Munro's spirits were also given a boost by the return of Colosimo, and his contribution to the third goal.

"He didn't shirk the challenge of the goalkeeper which was good to see. He's a class player, but he's still got a lot of games to go."

"He'll get a lot out of playing that twenty minutes tonight at that level."

By contrast Bernd Stange was once again left lamenting the absence of his midfield, admitting the team he was forced to field was a class below his first choice line-up, exposing the lack of depth in the Glory squad.

"Today was not good enough and I think it is fair we lost the game. We had a little bit of bad luck in the last minute with the crossbar, we could have had a draw but then we were wide open for the winning goal."

"Now we are under a bit of pressure. We have home games against the Kingz and Sydney Utd and if we win those we make the finals."

"It was easier when our aim was to make the top six. But now everybody in Perth expects a premiership and that is why we have to improve our performances."

"It was not enough today. Better than last week, but between the team I want to see and the team today, there is a class difference."

Indeed there is, and with a difficult run home which sees away matches at South Melbourne, Marconi and Wollongong, Bernd Stange will be itching to field his best eleven once again.

Unfortunately that won't include Boutsianis, although it would be too big a call to suggest the controversial star is the difference between a championship and a glorious failure.

Or would it?

The long wait is finally over for Carlton and Olyroo defender Simon Colosimo. The past is no longer relevant; it's the future that he is thinking about.

"I think I will be a better player for my lay-off in the future, but not now. I obviously need to get my fitness up before anything."

"The Olyroos are my main concern. When and where I will get a chance to prove myself to Raul Blanco, well that I don't know," Colosimo (pictured above with John Markovski after the game) said.

It is strongly expected that Olyroo coach Raul Blanco will give Colosimo his chance to regain his position in the side in the lead-up to the Olympics.

The Carlton player certainly deserves it.

"Before the game it wasn't so bad, but being on the sidelines was very emotional. When Stuart (Munro) called me to go on with 17 minutes to go I didn't know

what to do. I was lost almost," he added.

Colosimo's mother, Ines, said it had been a long road to recovery. "He has kept his chin up but you could tell in his eyes he was getting frustrated at times."

"Every time there is news on Simon they always talk about the incident (against Manchester United and Andy Cole). You gotta put it behind you but it is hard to forget it, I want to forget it big-time. It hurts," she stated.

Ironically, due to commitments with another son, she was unable to see son Simon make his long-awaited return.

After the match, coach Stuart Munro said of Colosimo: "It was good to see him go in there (for the goal). I thought the boy behind him gave a little push, but he did go in and challenge the goalkeeper which was good to see."

"Simon's a class player. He'll get plenty out of the 20 minutes that he had tonight - and confidence from playing at that level."

"(But) he's still got a lot of games to go before he's back on track."

Meanwhile another long-term injured Blues player, winger Joe Tricarico, enjoyed the final 20 minutes of a match that finished 6-1 in Carlton's favour midweek against Heidelberg.

It was Tricarico's first taste of any competitive football since suffering a bad hamstring injury last November.

Another match has been organised for "Tricky" next week - against Green Gully.

Blues management are planning to give the goal scoring flanker 45 minutes as they nurse him back to full match fitness for the finals, said the club's site.

With Colosimo and Tricarico back, and the team given a boost by their latest win, the finals are still a possibility for Carlton as they enter this crucial final phase of the home and away.

Aidan Ormond



# Kingz undone by Force to be reckoned with

## FOOTBALL KINGZ 0 ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 2

Hassell 63, Kemp 87.

Thursday night at Northern Harbour Stadium, Auckland. Crowd: 4,323.



### MATCH STATS:



KINGZ

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### FOOTBALL

**KINGZ:** Batty; Jones, Osman (Rufer, 78), Vicelich; Hickey, Stergiopoulos (Moya, 59), Ngata, Perry, Campbell; Silva (Suri, 72), Lammers.



FORCE

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### ADELAIDE CITY

**FORCE:** Cagalj; Hassell, Cartwright, Costanzo, Tobin; Kemp, Sabljak, Veart, Vidmar; Mori, Pelosi.

### Yellows:

**Kingz:** L. Jones (17)  
**Force:** A. Cagalj (25), A. Tobin (40), M. Cartwright (54)

### Reds:

**Kingz:** J. Lammers (44)

### Best Players:

3. VIDMAR (FORCE)  
2. Mori (Force)  
1. Vicelich (Kingz)

Referee: Brian Precious



Ivan Vicelich: a powerful second half for the ten-man Kingz.

By Jeremy Ruane

**A**delaide Force showed that they should not be ruled out of the reckoning for a top six finish in the National Soccer League this season, by recording a 2-0 victory over the Football Kingz at North Harbour Stadium on March 23 to record just the second victory by a visiting side at the Auckland venue.

It was a victory they thoroughly deserved too, for the Force dominated the

Kingz, who, collectively, had an off-night in front of a 4,323-strong crowd, many of whom chose to vent their frustrations on referee Brian Precious - most unfairly, in this writer's view.

The incident which drew most of the faithfuls' ire took place a minute before the break, when the Kingz Dutch striker, John Lammers, was sent off for injudicious use of the elbow when contesting possession in the air following a Force clearance.

The striker looked stunned and bewildered as referee Precious awarded him an early bath, the player's protests of innocence falling on deaf ears. But the official couldn't help but hear the torrent of abuse directed towards him moments later, as the teams headed for the dressing rooms at half-time.

Many of those responsible for this outpouring of emotion would, one hopes, have felt a little sheepish upon seeing the video evidence of the incident later, which gave the impression that there was a degree of intent in Lammers' actions.

Precious didn't have the advantage of the instant replay available to those in the media booth, but the decision he made, based on what he saw take place in an instant in time, was correct, much like the vast majority of his rulings throughout the match.

Another such incident took place in the 25th minute, when Adelaide's goalkeeper, Adrian Cagalj, lost his bearings, and handled the ball outside the right-hand edge of his penalty area, as Aaron Silva pursued possession.

Immediately, the crowd bayed for blood, cries of "Off! Off! Off!" thundering down from the stands. But such calls do much to reveal how knowledgeable a crowd is, with regard to the Laws of the Game.

In no way was this a sending-off offence, as the location where the incident took place was far from conducive to being a goalscoring opportunity! Out came the referee's yellow card, an action met with boos and cries of "Cheat!", supposedly directed at the official, rather than the opponent, given the vehemence of later outbursts. (And these same people wonder why quality referees are in such short supply these days?)

Scoring chances certainly weren't in this match, particularly in the first spell. Silva was denied by Cagalj's alertness in the third minute, while Levent Osman's timely tackle three minutes later thwarted the prolific Mori combining with Pelosi, the pair having breached the Kingz offside trap on receipt of Vidmar's clipped through ball.

The visitors didn't allow the Kingz to settle early on, but marred their industry by squandering a host of scoring opportunities, mainly from outside the penalty area. The back-from-injury birthday boy Jason Batty was quite content to watch the ball whizz past his goal-frame at varying heights and trajectories, but when he was called into action in the 33rd minute, did he perform!

Batty pulled off three stunning saves



Aurelio 'Viddy' Vidmar: all his Socceroo experience was utilized as Force came away from NZ unlike many NSL sides ... with three points.

in a ten second spell to thwart Pelosi's superbly struck volley, Matthew Kemp's powerful header and Mori's attempt to convert the rebound - goalkeeping at its very best!

The Kingz created a couple of chances of their own in the later stages of the half, with Silva and Marcus Stergiopoulos chancing their arm from distance to no avail, the latter's effort following the home team's most enterprising move of the match, a flowing seven-pass raid which saw Lammers and the shooter heavily involved.

After Lammers' dismissal, the Kingz lacked a cutting edge in attack, and the Angelo Costanzo-led Adelaide defence found themselves under little pressure, and with plenty of time to ping forward any number of probing passes, in the hope of springing the Kingz offside trap.

The first hint that this tactic would pay off for the visitors came in the 55th minute, when Costanzo clipped a raking ball forward to find Mori, of all people, in full flight, and not a Kingz defender near him.

Into the penalty area he strode before cracking a left-foot drive across the face of Batty's goal, and just wide of the far post.

Eight minutes later, the dam was breached, Vidmar's probing pass instigating the move which opened the scoring. That, and Bradley Hassell's overlapping run down the right-hand side, which saw him evade the outnumbered Lee Jones' challenge, before lashing the ball past the advancing Batty inside the far post.

Stunned silence met the goal, but the crowd were soon shouting for the Kingz again, as Silva danced past three Force defenders.

After both he and Jeff Campbell had had their efforts on goal blocked to safety, Jones fed the ball through for the full-on-running Noah Hickey, whose pace took him clear of the defence. Cagalj battered his piledriver to safety, the incoming Jonathan Perry arriving just too late to make the most of the rebound.

Ivan Vicelich had an inspired second half for the ten men, and came agonisingly close to scoring with a powerful 70th minute near post header, following Jones' inswinging corner. The ball crept inches over the crossbar, landing on the roof of the net, much to Cagalj's relief.

He was even more relieved five minutes from time, as Wynton Rufer, who had

been on the park just seven minutes, snatched at a chance to equalise which he would almost certainly have converted had he been fully attuned to the speed of the game.

It was to prove a crucial miss, for with the Kingz pressing for a point, Veart turned defence into attack with another yard-eating pass. Vidmar took off in pursuit, and to many, appeared to be offside. But where was he when the ball was played?

The flag stayed down, and Vidmar was off down the left, with Kemp roaring forward from deep to fill the void in the middle. Vidmar picked out his team-mate with a measured first-time cross, which Kemp did justice to by powering his header past Batty from the edge of the penalty area to wrap up all three points for Adelaide.

David Moya's late attempt to grant the Kingz some degree of consolation proved fruitless, and their nine-match unbeaten run at North Harbour Stadium was at an end, at the hands of a team who were well worthy of the three points, and who should still be regarded as a Force to

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# Magnacca steps out of the shadows



## SOUTH MELBOURNE 0 BRISBANE STRIKERS 0

Sunday night at Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne. Crowd: 4,706.

### MATCH STATS:



**SOUTH MELBOURNE:**  
Jones, De Amicis,  
Iosifidis, Liparoti, Orlic,  
Clarkson, Alagich  
(Panopoulos 71),  
Tsekinis, Trimboli (c)  
(Lozanovski 76), Magnacca (Coveny  
64), Anastasiadis.



**BRISBANE STRIKERS:** Bolton,  
Gwynne, McKain,  
McLaren, Stefanutto,  
North, Srhoj, Grierson  
(Dillon 80), Dwyer, Harris  
(Baldwin 52), Foster. Subs not used:  
Pilić.

Yellow: Nil

### Best Players:

3. MAGNACCA (S. MELB)
2. Bolton (Strikers)
1. Tsekinis (SMelb)

Referee: Mark Shields.

so we can't complain about it."

Scoreless draws are often dull affairs, but this one was most certainly not in that category. There were chances earned and spurned by both sides, and the game moved from end to end in a keenly fought contest.

Remarkably, given the stakes for both sides, referee Matthew Breeze was not required to caution any player, and felt compelled to speak with players only on a couple of occasions.

Responding to questions about whether the draw means South will struggle to make the Finals Series this year after winning the Championship in the last two, Postecoglou said, "It's getting a bit hard now. At least today the effort was there and I couldn't question our commitment (after last week's disappointing loss to Canberra)."

"We've just got to keep doing that for the last eight games and get as many results as we can and see what happens."

The early signs were that South Melbourne wanted to establish dominance in an attempt to kill the game off with an early burst of goals, and played three up front.

Paul Trimboli joined Anthony Magnacca and John Anastasiadis in the forward line, and immediately set about their task.

"We usually play with Trimmers behind the front two," said Postecoglou. "We've got to win games so there's no point in sitting back and hoping for things to happen."

Nine minutes in, Steve Iosifidis made space up the right wing, playing a wall-pass with Trimboli sending the return short to Magnacca whose turn at the edge of the penalty-area completely wrong-footed his marker.

Clint Bolton blocked Magnacca's driven shot, then gathered the loose ball at the feet of the fast-arriving Anastasiadis.

Two minutes later, Trimboli sent a high ball in to the area which Magnacca cleverly nodded down to Anastasiadis, but the veteran striker - who

both started and finished a game, nowadays an unusual phenomenon - shot extravagantly over.

Just after the quarter-hour, David Clarkson passed to Magnacca whose speed of turn bewildered his marker after showing he had tenacity as well as touch earlier in the move when he battled to win, then hold, the ball.

"For a spell in the first half, I thought they got the better of us," said Kosmina. "Magnacca up front was causing us a few problems."

Strikers, however, held their nerve and began to come

into the contest from midway through the half. The early pressure had been seen off.

Paul Foster robbed Trimboli mid-pitch then set Jeromy Harris free to shoot from long range, but wide. Harris was to be substituted with an injury early in the second half, and with his absence, so too went Strikers' more dangerous forays.

And as if to emphasise how the scales had tipped, Foster himself found the ball at his feet within shooting range, requiring Chris Jones to spring into action to hold safely.

Magnacca was a revelation in this game, able to turn whichever Strikers' marker was assigned the task to shadow him with ease, and using his speed to find dangerous positions.

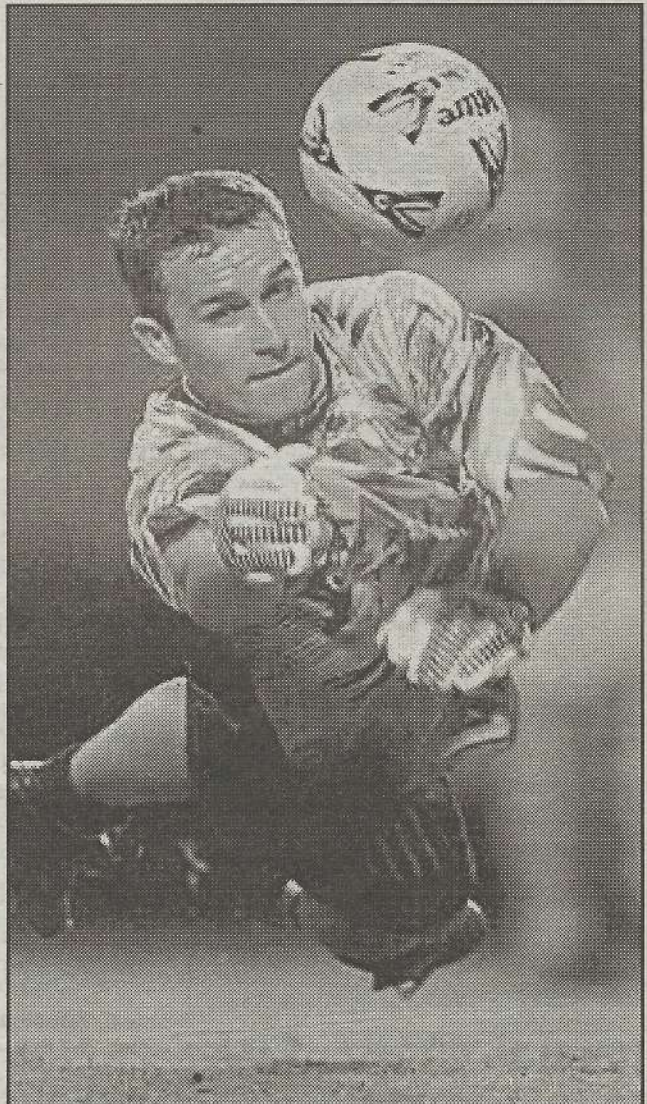
His substitution for Vaughan Coveny just after the hour had the crowd on its feet both booing Postecoglou's decision to bring him off, and cheering in acclamation of Magnacca's efforts.

"Magnacca did well," said Postecoglou. "He hasn't played a lot for us this year. We looked pretty tired last week against Canberra so I thought (I'd introduce) some fresh legs. He did well for the hour he played."

"It was probably the second game he's started all (season). He did a good job for us."

Strikers faced unstinting pressure throughout the second half, but remained resolute, breaking away when the opportunities arose, keeping South's defenders from effectively joining the siege.

Trimboli and especially Anastasiadis both had solid chances, but failed to get past Bolton - Anastasiadis' chance perhaps being the best of the night, when he spooned over the bar from the edge of the six-yard box after Iosifidis' driven cross from the right.



Flying Soccerroo: Clint Bolton kept the Strikers in the game on Sunday with some quality stops.

Goran Lozanovski, entering the field as a late substitute for Trimboli, but playing wide on the right had an opportunity after the expiry of regulation time when he shot from distance, but Bolton managed to beat it out.

Right at the death, Strikers had the chance to launch a smash-and-grab raid of their own.

Shane Stefanutto had won a ball deep in his defensive half on the left, and ran upfield as the ball was played to Jade North wide on the right.

North sent in a cross after making a run to where Stefanutto met it, sending it to Peter Dwyer, only to hit Dwyer and watch the ball deflect wide of the post.



Anthony Magnacca: the fringe player really shone for the fading South.

By Alan Clark

**T**he scoreless draw at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday between South Melbourne and Brisbane Strikers was a result that suited neither of these Finals-chasing sides.

"It was a frustrating night," said South coach Ange Postecoglou. "We created enough opportunities to win it, (Strikers' keeper - Clint Bolton - played well and credit to him, and we missed a few that we probably should have put away. But that's the way it goes."

Strikers coach John Kosmina also would have preferred a win. "We'll have to start winning some games (to reach the Finals). But we got a win last week and a draw this week away from home - the first point we've got here for a long time I think,



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# Pondeljak Power! United finally wins one

## SYDNEY UNITED 1

Pondeljak 89

## PARRAMATTA POWER 0

Sunday afternoon at Sydney United Sports Centre, Sydney. Crowd 3,467



### MATCH STATS:



#### SYDNEY UNITED:

Hughes, Kupresak, Bosnar, Savoca, Maric (Y), Bozinovski, Rakic (Palapanis 92), Genc (Moric 83), Rastall, Pondeljak, Jermen (Bosevski 69)



#### PARRAMATTA POWER:

Gibson, Barrett (Erich 75), Vrkic, Ardone (Plesa 75), Sterjovski, Griffiths, Berry, Blagojevic, Byrnes, Santalab (Townsend 45), Bennett

#### Yellows:

United: Rakic, Maric  
Power: Bennett

#### Best Players:

3. PONDELJAK (UNITED)  
2. Blagojevic (Power)  
1. Bennett (Power)

Referee: Gerry Connolly

ther doubt over its claims for a finals berth.

"If we had scored they would have had to come at us," said Power coach David Mitchell after the game. "They sat back and sat back and we had to go at them. We threw Mark Byrnes forward late because we wanted to win it.

"Perhaps someone didn't know we told him to go forward but we told Richard (Plesa) to mark his man and Joe (Vrkic) marks man to man with Byrnes going up front

"Look at the amount of chances they had, it was minimal. And because we went out and tried to win the game we got caught ... and look at Wally's miss, he was two yards out. If we had scored then would have had to come at us. As it turned out the longer it went the more they sat back and the more confidence they had," added Mitchell.

In perfect condions - albeit a little sandy under foot - and on a lovely day for football, the only thing missing from this Sydney derby was passion and excitement. Certainly the small crowd did not help, with the sides receiving a muted response when they entered the arena.

The first half was a woeful 45 minutes of football. Walter Ardone's glaring miss in the 40th minute pretty much summed up the opening stanza.

After good lead-up work the Power midfielder had the goal at his mercy, yet incredibly missed, blasting his effort over the bar.

This set the tone. Lead up good. Finishing bad.

Power had the lion's share of possession in this first half, with Peter Bennett Steve Berry and Milan Blagojevic pulling the strings, and Unite sitting back.

Blagojevic in particular was always constructive from the back, a position that clearly suits him.

Power began with the forward line that so enthralled the Edensor Park faithful last season: Sterjovski and Griffiths, yet these two were well shackled by the wily Velimir Kupresak (who had a couple of tangles with Sterjovski) and the always impressive Eddie Bosnar.

Sterjovski however did have a chance on the quarter hour, his header sailed over after Barrett set him up.

United's shining light was Tommy Pondeljak. He looked most dangerous when dropping back to receive and run at the defence.

He had a number of chances to unlock the visiting defence, the best being in the 27th minute when he beat three defenders on a jinky run, but his through ball to strike partner Mario Jermen was narrowly offside.

Joel Griffiths had a good opportunity two minutes from the break for Parra, but he couldn't make space for himself just inside the box, the attentions of Kupresak enough to force him to shoot over.

The only effort on target for United in the first half was a tame header by Jermen right on the whistle.

It really was a half to forget.

The second half started more promisingly for Power, with David Barrett blasting over from just inside the box then, a minute later, in the 55th minute Joel Griffiths opened up the home defence.

His crisp one-two just outside the box took the defender out but his shot was saved low down by Hughes.

And five minutes later Ardone again opened up the United defence with a lovely through ball, only for Mile Sterjovski to finish weakly from about ten yards out and slightly wide.

In the 79th minute Pondeljak broke through the left side of the Parramatta defence. With a two against one in United's favour, he just failed to release the free Bosevski, who surely would have scored.

Pondeljak's powerful shot from 22 yards, just moments later, the best of the match but Gibson was down early to save.

Griffiths then had a chance close in after sub Townsend did well on the right, but the blond striker stabbed his shot and Hughes in the United goal easily dealt with it.

And with six minutes left Griffiths broke free but his cross was cut out just in time. Efforts from Berry and Townsend also failed to trouble the keeper as Power finished the stronger of the two until the killer blow came in the 89th minute.

It really was so simple.

Substitute Ante Moric's lovely little chip from a quick free kick wide on the right found Pondeljak free inside the box, and the classy striker calmly lobbed Gibson.

A well taken effort but where was the marking? Pondeljak's celebrations were unbridled; the crowd for once making some noise.

Pondeljak also scored against the same opposition earlier in the season.

Bennett almost saved it for Power after excellent work down the right by sub Ahmed Elrich. His cross to the far post was perfect but Bennett, sliding in, just missed the target with his toe poke.

Bennett, who played most of the game with a head bandage, was one of the few who stood out for the visitors.

For Sydney United Tommy Pondeljak is a class act and would probably be on the shopping list of every top NSL team this off-season.

And at the back, Kupresak and Bosnar dominated the strikeline of the visitors.



Tommy Pondeljak: standout performer for Sydney United.



Ante Moric: his quickly taken kick found Pondeljak who scored the winner.

By Aidan Ormond

The music playing before the game was "The Boys are Back in Town". Given nine starters in the visiting line-up played at Sydney United last year, it was pretty apt.

But it was one of United's new signings this season, Tommy Pondeljak, who stole the show with a fantastic attacking display that was capped by a winning goal with just a minute of normal time left.

Power dominated possession in this game but could not make it count when needed. The loss is another blow to Power's inconsistent season, casting fur-

Substitute Ante Moric - who tore his calf against Marconi and has been out for five weeks - also did well after coming on late. Moric said later that there were a few more teams that United can shock in these final games of the year.

"I think the boys tonight proved to themselves that they can match it with the so-called better sides. It doesn't matter that it was just a 1-0 win, the team proved that collectively it can play for 90 minutes," said the midfielder who recently became a father for the first time.

"Believe you me, there will be upsets in the rest of the season," he added.

This was coach Ivan Petkovic's first win as a United coach in his ten-week rein.

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# Here come the Stallions

## WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1

Masi 27

## MARCONI STALLIONS 2

Awaritefe 35, Z. Babic 45

Sunday night at Brandon Park, Wollongong. Crowd: 7,338.



### MATCH STATS:



#### WOLLONGONG

**WOLVES:** Pogliacomi, Ceccoli, Stanton, Cervinski, Horsley, Reid, Young, Chipperfield, Masi

(Petrovski 55), Robertson (Spencer 75), Mennillo (Souris 65).



#### MARCONI

**STALLIONS:** Turnbull, Gibson, M. Babic, Longo, Kim, Care (Renaud 89), Z. Babic (Trajanovski 85), Maloney, Smith, Invincible, Awaritefe (Zoric 75).

#### Yellow Cards:

**Wollongong:** Ceccoli 23, Cervinski 60.

**Marconi:** Smith 36.

#### Best Player:

**3. Z. BABIC (MARCONI)**

2. Longo (Marconi)

1. Pogliacomi (Wollongong)

**Referee:** Eddie Lennie

By Stephen Webb

**T**his week Marconi showed themselves to be a class side - and on the improve at the right end of the season.

Wollongong went into the match as league leaders, with their largest and most pumped-up crowd this year, but their play was as wobbly as their position on the table.

When Marconi were attacking in the first half, the visitors looked the better team. And when they were defending their lead against a Wollongong barrage in the second half, they still looked the better team.

Some rough statistics indicate the shape of the game. Of Wollongong's 11 shots, four were on target; compared to Marconi's 14 shots, 11 of which were on target. Marconi's marksmen and backline were outstanding.

The latter really showed their mettle in the second half when Wollongong were pressing for an equaliser and had seven corners to Marconi's three.

Wolves' keeper Les Pogliacomi was in demand for the whole game, starting from the third minute when a Mark Babic ball down the right had to be saved from an oncoming Brad Maloney.

Fancy work by local man-of-the-match Paul Reid and Stuart Young in the sixth minute almost set Esala Masi up in front of goal. But Masi couldn't control in



time and left the ball for Dino Mennillo who rushed his shot well wide.

But Marconi's first chance came moments later when Robert Stanton clumsily and unnecessarily fouled Zeljko Babic near the corner of Wolves' penalty area.

Mike Smith's low and firm shot took a slight deflection on its way to goal but Pogliacomi made a good save near the post.

In the 11th minute mistakes by Alvin Ceccoli and Stanton, back-passing under pressure from Maloney and Zeljko Babic, almost presented Babic with a gift goal. But the Marconi striker, perhaps surprised by Wolves' generosity, didn't strike soon enough and Wolves scrambled the ball away.

For most of the first half Marconi were in charge of midfield, hassling Wollongong as they came out of defence and leaving them with few options other than long balls for Masi and Scott Chipperfield.

When Wollongong were able to provide some service to their strikers Longo and Mark Babic snuffed them out.

Chris Care was a constant irritation and Wollongong had no answer to Zeljko Babic's terrorising running.

Good fortune almost came Masi's way when Longo hit a clearance straight into his body, Pogliacomi came out well to take a ball intended for Awaritefe, and Awaritefe was on the receiving end of good, strong tackles by Cervinski and Matt Horsley.

Pogliacomi had more work to do following another Zeljko Babic-Maloney combination. Wolves' newcomer Mark Robertson, the former Olyroo, on loan from Burnley, made a good header beating Maloney to a Babic cross but the clearance eventually came to Maloney whose shot from distance had to be saved by the Wolves keeper diving to his left.

In the 21st minute Awaritefe latched onto a ball into the box left by Horsley. He pushed it through for Babic who was blocked by the combined efforts of Pogliacomi and Horsley scrambling at his feet.

Four minutes later Maloney sent Chad Gibson down the right wing. He hit a fine cross, firm and low, but which was caught by Pogliacomi.

Wolves' goal in the 27th minute was due as much to Masi's persistence as to his fierce finishing. Free on the right, Masi was unable to get a cross in, instead running into the double difficulty of Longo and Pan Keun Kim.

Masi seemed to have lost his way in a tangle of legs, but when Kim and Longo went down Masi stayed upright and drilled the ball into the back of the net.

Wollongong's lead was not convincing, however.

In the 32nd minute Pogliacomi had to hold well at the post from an Awaritefe cross and was soon off his line to punch the ball clear.

But he was unable to prevent

Awaritefe's equaliser in the 35th minute, a glancing header from what appeared to be a harmless Zeljko Babic ball into the box.

Wolves' response was a lobbed cross from Horsley which was followed by a lobbed header from Masi. However Masi, unlike his opposite number, couldn't get the ball under the crossbar.

Babic then proceeded to create more misery for the home team.

He first gave Cervinski some sprinting practice, the big defender having to chase him into Wolves' penalty and just spoil his close-range shot.

Then in the 40th minute Babic played the ball from midfield to Maloney wide on the right. The return cross was too high for Babic but fell for Smith whose shot from wide on the left forced a fingertip save from Pogliacomi.

Wolves came back through Young and Robertson combining to set up Mennillo wide on Wolves' left. But Mennillo's cross to Masi was cut out by Longo.

In time added on Young set Chipperfield running at goal before delivering a shot from 25 metres - a good effort blocked by Michael Turnbull.

But when Wolves were thinking they'd seen out the half, Care played a quick free kick into the path of the pernicious Babic who drove the ball past the Wollongong keeper.

The second half must have been frustrating for the local fans, but was fascinating football nevertheless.

Wolves were after an equaliser. But Marconi were to provide an object lesson in protecting a goalkeeper (aided by Wollongong's failure to slot home sitters).

A good chance left begging came early in the second half when Mennillo on the left shot through a packed penalty area. The ball came to Horsley who dwelled too long on the ball and Turnbull closed him down.

Then Mark Babic got in the way of Masi who had been put through by Reid, Gibson shot across the face of Wolves' goal after a run down the right, and Horsley exchanged a few words with Smith after he robbed both Smith and Awaritefe with some of his usual tenacious tackling.

Thirteen minutes into the half Longo anticipated and blocked Petrovski turning to shoot from the corner of Marconi's goal box. And then Turnbull had some work to do, saving inswinging corners and punching clear under pressure.

In the 65th minute, after much scrambling for the ball in the Wolves penalty area, Ceccoli saved on the line from a Maloney shot.

Wolves' coach Nick Theodorakopoulos could wait no longer and finally brought on George Souris to rein in Zeljko Babic.

But the Stallions had bolted and now it was their turn to shut the gate. With over 20 minutes to go they slowed the game down and delayed every play of the ball as long as was legally possible.

Coach Eddie Krncevic must have been happy to see Petrovski and Young turning his players five, six or seven times - they were going nowhere and had no forward options.

Apart from long shots.

One of those, a 30-metre effort from Reid in the 74th minute should have yielded dividends. But it didn't. Turnbull couldn't hold and the ball fell to Chipperfield who couldn't control and take a simple



Speedy Sean Babic: back to his scintillating best in the last two weeks.

chance.

The tackle of the match was not surprisingly by Cervinski who chased Maloney for nearly 30 metres down the left before getting in a last-second contact that sent the ball flying away from the goal-bound midfielder.

Wollongong kept trying to take the game to the visitors who held well and occasionally popped a long ball to Babic who otherwise kept himself busy by raiding back into midfield.

In the 82nd minute Gibson made a good run through several Wolves players before being cleaned up by Souris.

And Marconi made a couple more breaks into the Wollongong area before the 87th minute when Babic beat Souris and looked certain to score but for a heroic save by an advancing Pogliacomi. The keeper only deflected the ball, however, and Stanton headed clear and then blocked Care's shot from a Maloney pass.

Babic remained on the pitch for nearly all normal time. When he was replaced the spotlight fell on Maloney. He had a shot deflected for a corner, and then made a fine steal from Young on the edge of the Marconi area, ran the length of the pitch, took the return and delivered a shot that forced a save from the leftward-diving Pogliacomi.

Wolves were so keen to capture a point that even Pogliacomi went up for a corner. But like all Wolves' other second half efforts, that too was in vain.

After the match Krncevic said he thought Marconi played quite well in the first half but were "under the pump" for the first 20 minutes of the second half and weathered the storm.

He said Zeljko Babic had been looking good the last couple of weeks and was actually sprinting for most of the game. But he said it was a good effort by everyone. Maloney was coming back into form also and the back three, who had played well the previous week, consolidated against Wollongong. They were well organised, he said, and benefited from Kim's experience.

Theodorakopoulos (pictured) said some of Wollongong's distribution qualities were questionable but thought there had been two very good teams cancelling each other out. "It was always going to be tight. It was just that lack of concentration in the 47th minute ... and ten seconds."

He said it was certainly nothing to worry about, losing against such an in-form and confident side.

"Everybody talks about Wollongong and Perth," he said. "Let me wake a few people up: Marconi as well."



# Glory back on top



**PERTH GLORY 3**  
Naven 20, Harnwell 25, Schwartz 64

**FOOTBALL KINZ 1**

Silva 65  
Sunday afternoon at Perth Oval, Perth. Crowd: 9,784.

## MATCH STATS:



**P E R T H  
GLORY:** Petkovic,  
Trajkovski, Harnwell,  
Thorpe, Valle, Carbone  
(Afkos 78), Naven, Edgar,  
Edwards, Despotovski  
(Ergic 67), Buljan (Aurelio 57).



**FOOTBALL KINGZ:**  
Utting, Bunce, Perry,  
Stergiopolous (Kenyon  
75), Vichelich (Moya 75),  
Osman (Suri 61),  
Jackson, Ngata, Jones,  
Rufer, Silva.

**Yellow:**  
**Glory:** Nil  
**Kingz:** Bunce

**Best Players:**  
**3. GARETH NAVEN (GLORY)**  
**2. Rob Trajkovski (Glory)**  
**1. Jamie Harnwell (Glory)**

**Referee:** Perry Mur



Glory goalscorer Jamie Harnwell.

By Dennis Gedling

**P**erth Glory shot to the top of the league in fine style by easily accounting for the Kingz 3-1 at Perth Oval on Sunday.

Goals from Gareth Naven, Jamie Harnwell and Brazilian Aurelio sealed the fate for the NZ visitors whose only reply was from Chilean Aaron Silva.

Perth came into the game after playing on the Friday night when they lost to Carlton for their second loss in a row.

The visitors also lost the game from earlier in the week - a two nil home loss to Adelaide, so both sides entered the match desperate for points.

Stange's side operated with the normal formation of 5-3-2 while the Kingz had the standard 4-4-2.

Alistair Edwards started in the mid-field with Peter Buljan and Bobby

Despotovski up front.

The home side was the first to put a stamp on the game with Robert Trajkovski having the first chance on goal near the ten-minute mark when he shot just wide.

Both sides in the early clinches relied on long balls with the respective defences not being put under too much pressure.

Trajkovski had another shot on goal halfway through the first half when his shot was saved by the keeper but a poor follow up by John Carbone (in for the absent Scott Miller) made sure the score remained 0-0.

A free kick taken by Trajkovski from almost 30 metres out hit the upright as the keeper was completely caught unaware by the cracking shot.

After twenty-two minutes Glory finally broke through with a superb move. A quickly taken free kick by Despotovski was inch perfect to the running Naven who easily slotted the ball into the back of the net.

Glory then went two up soon after with a Geoff Hurst like goal from a Harnwell screamer that hit the underside of the bounce and bounced, (according to the referee at least.)

Once again a quickly taken free kick exposed the Kingz defence, Harnwell was given too much space running from defence and sent a powerful shot past the keeper.

Although the linesman indicated to the referee that it was indeed a goal television replays later cast doubt on the correctness of the decision.

Glory were cruising at this point with coach Wynton Rufer trying to lift his Kingz players but his powerful shot - which went just wide - was the only real attack on Perth's goal.

Naven almost made it three just before the break but his shot went wide and the Glory was left lamenting another chance.

In the second half Glory resumed their complete domination with Despotovski hitting the post from a corner. Glory's passing finding out a paper thin Kingz defence but Buljan's distinct lack of pace denying the home side more scoring opportunities.

Aurelio soon relieved a half-fit Buljan and immediately used his pace to upset his marker.

The Brazilian super sub had the best chance of the match when a pass from his countryman Edgar beat the offside trap and had all the time in the world to put it past the keeper, but his final touch let him down and Utting collected the ball.

Aurelio's punching of the ground showing his obvious frustration.

The Kingz soon started to make some inroads into the Glory defence with a number of counter attacks and soon had Glory under pressure for the first time in the match.

A scrappy, unlikely goal came from Jackson when the home defence couldn't clear a corner and his weak deflected shot found its way into the net - suddenly Glory were in need of goals again.



Glory's man of the match Gareth Naven in action during the Carlton game two days prior to leading Glory to a victory over the Kingz.

It didn't take long for Aurelio to make amends for his earlier mistake by notching Glory's third after sixty-eight minutes.

A long cross by Trajkovski from the right found Aurelio very deep and next to the far post.

The Brazilian held the ball up brushed off the defender and put the ball in for his second home goal in as many games - his goal very reminiscent of Bergkamp's against Argentina in France 98.

A tiring but otherwise excellent Despotovski was subbed for Ivan Ergic after 72 minutes, and the youngster made an instant impact. His combination with Aurelio soon exposed the tiring Kingz defence.

Ergic found himself in the clear in a counter attack but his shot was saved by the keeper though the ball skewed off the keeper towards the goal.

Carbone chased the ball to finish the job but the back tracking keeper beat him and pushed the ball out for a corner.

The remainder of the game was constant attacks on the visiting team's goal from the Perth side.

The offside trap and luck making sure the score stayed at some respectable level for Rufer and his side.

Full-time brought a loud cheer from the very vocal crowd and Glory thoroughly deserved all three points in an easy win.

After the match Bernd Stange was happy with his side's performance: "We played very well and I am proud of the fact we played a full 90 minutes, especially with the fact we travelled so far recently."

Wynton Rufer admitted the trip took a lot out of his players but it was no excuse for his side to capitulate to the new league leaders.

"Distance is no excuse for a performance like that, we were completely outclassed and must look at ourselves this week."

The West Australian side was the far better team in this match. Naven and Edgar using physical force to gain possession with Stange also rotating the back five around as sweepers, wing-backs and stoppers.

The tactics paying off with defenders like Dion Valle and Harnwell making great runs up front. Trajkovski on the right was

once again a constant danger and Edwards, in his midfield role, was a great success.

For the Kingz, Rufer tried to lift his side from his striker position but couldn't do it, the fumbling goal by Jackson did bring them back into the match but only their offside trap was the winner for the travelling side.

Glory now lead the league and still have Kasey Wehrman, Miller, Vinko Buljabasic and Troy Halpin to return for the tough run home. Perth now face Sydney United at home next week with a chance to consolidate their lead.

The Kingz go to Gippsland with the goal to resurrect their finals chances.

Glory are now top of the league, it's up to them to now stay there.

## SITTER!

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# Knights for the finals?



**SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0**

**MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1**

Cervinski 64.

Sunday night at Belmore Sports, Sydney. Crowd 4,896.

## MATCH STATS:



**SYDNEY OLYMPIC:**  
Perosh, Zoricich,  
Tsekenis, Baillie, Juric,  
Cardozo, Wilson,  
Goutzioulis (Tome 69),  
Carle, Zorbas, Duric  
(Kalantzis 65).



**MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:** John, Rajher  
(Reda 29), Vukadin,  
Nastevski, Urlovic  
(Matkovic 72), Abbas,  
Magdic (Rados 90),  
Kiratzoglou, Susa, Silic, Cervinski.

## Yellows:

**Knights:** Susa 21, Abbas 36,  
**Olympic:** Cardozo 87

## Best Players:

**3. JURIC (OLYMPIC)**  
**2. Silic (Knights)**  
**1. Kiratzoglou (Knights).**

**Referee:** Brett Hugo

Olympic's two midweek signings - George Goutzioulis and Alex Duric - went straight into the starting eleven to plug some of the gaps created by injury, suspension and national team duty.

Neither made much of an impact, although Goutzioulis showed some promising signs before running out of legs in the second half.

Rodrigo Vargas, Ivan Kelic, Ransford Banini and captain Ante Kovacevic didn't make the trip to Sydney, so the Knights weren't at full strength either.

In the circumstances, the Knights could have been excused for playing for a draw. They appeared to be doing exactly that, until Cervinski popped up to score against his former club.

Both sides started the match at a fairly sedate tempo. Olympic saw more of the ball early on, although, apart from a few half chances, they were prevented from doing anything constructive with it.

Melbourne's Mark Silic and Paul Magdic combined to carve out a goalscoring opportunity for Alex Kiratzoglou in the ninth minute, but the former Young Socceroo sent his glancing header wide of John Perosh's goal.

A minute later, Olympic's Scott Baillie sent a fearsome header just over the bar after a Pablo Cardozo corner.

Chris Zoricich then singled the outside of the goalpost with a powerful, first-time shot from a difficult angle.

Olympic's best chance of the half fell to Cardozo after 30 minutes.

Lyndsay Wilson's cross found him lurking at the far post, but a timely tackle from Knights defender Jason Vukadin put the striker off, and he skewed his shot out for a goal kick.

Goutzioulis made his presence felt with a blistering drive in the 37th, forcing unsighted Knights 'keeper Martin John into an important save.

John's clearance led to a break by Kiratzoglou down the left. His sudden cutback deceived the Olympic defence, and Zeljko Susa's goal-bound shot was chested off the line by Wilson.

Olympic retained the greater share of possession during the second half, but the visitors always looked dangerous on the counter attack.

A number of intricate build-ups came to nothing for Olympic due to inaccurate final passes, and the crowd became restless as long range efforts from Wilson and Cardozo again sailed wide.

The Knights made the home side rue their profligate finishing with the well-worked winner in the 64th minute.

A swift interchange between Silic and Paul Urlovic opened up the Olympic defence like a tin of sardines, and Cervinski was suddenly in a one-on-one position with Perosh.

The 'keeper got a hand to Cervinski's chip, but the ball had enough kinetic energy to bounce across

the line and silence the crowd.

Olympic belatedly came to life after the goal. Nick Carle fired into the side netting soon after the re-start, and Cardozo had the ball in the net in the 74th, only to see his effort ruled out for offside.

Carle's shot in the 76th was deflected toward the top corner of the visitors' goal, and it took another smart save from John to preserve the lead.

Cardozo's brilliant run and cross deserved a goal a minute later, but substitute Norman Tome dithered on the ball and the moment was lost.

Olympic came forward in waves for the remainder of the game, and the Knights were largely content to sit back and absorb the pressure.

Ante Juric, Olympic's outstanding sweeper, joined the forward line in the dying stages, but couldn't quite engineer an equaliser.

Chris Kalantzis curled in a corner in the 89th minute and Baillie's blockbusting header flew straight into the arms of Martin John.

This just wasn't Olympic's day.



Ante Juric: the former Young Socceroo played well in his role as a sweeper.

Teenage Knights substitute Harry Matkovic almost doubled the margin of victory in stoppage time, sending a delicate chip inches wide of the Olympic goal.

The result brings the Knights within striking distance of a top six position on the congested league table. Just as importantly, they are running into good form and few sides would want to face them at the moment.



Knights scorer Adrian Cervinski against former teammate Peter Zorbas.

Olympic have now slipped to third spot, behind Perth and Wollongong. While the wheels haven't exactly fallen off yet, without several of their star players the momentum is no longer there.

Olympic coach Branko Culina tersely agreed: "The changes that we have had have disturbed the balance of the team. We lost Chi Chi, we lost Emerton, we lost Scott Thomas.

"We as a team have to work harder and make up for the loss of these key players. We're not that good that we can carry the loss of these players.

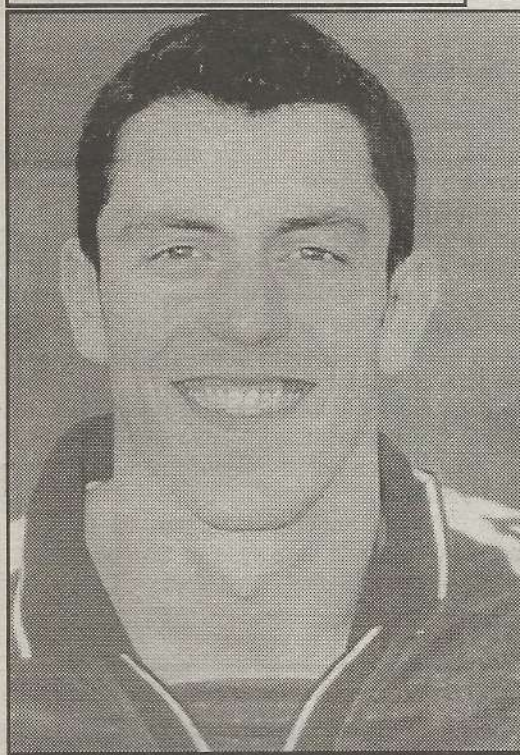
"The way we are playing at the moment is far from what we are capable of. If we were playing the Ku-Ring-Gai under 11's tomorrow, I'd be a bit concerned.

"The players have lost a bit of confidence, we're not playing as fluently as we were a few weeks ago and somehow we need to get back that hunger.

Knights boss Vlado Vanis said "everybody played well, they played like a team. When I came here nine or ten weeks ago they were all playing as individuals, now they are a team.

"The defence did well, the goalkeeper did well. We scored in the second half but we should have scored in the first half also."

Regarding the race for a top six spot, Vanis said "everything is very open, it will be very hard, but we will keep working."



Alex Kiratzoglou: yet again he does well for the NSL's only true form team: Melbourne Knights.

By Ben Cubby

**T**he Melbourne Knights continued their late push for a playoff position on Sunday night with another gritty 1-0 win.

Sydney Olympic became their latest victim, succumbing to an opportunistic Adrian Cervinski strike midway through the second half.

Without their two most effective players - Brett Emerton and Gabriel Mendez - Olympic lacked the creativity needed to break down the tough and well-organised Knights outfit.

The swashbuckling football seen at Belmore earlier this season faded to mere memory as the Knights retreated south with three more priceless points.



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# INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER



## AIS SHOW STRENGTH IN SPIRITED WIN



Northern Spirit's Simon Catanzaro

By Theo Katsaros

**A** bright and sunny weekend played host to five National Youth League fixtures. The Newcastle Breakers v A.C.T.A.S. and the N.S.W.I.S. v Sydney United Colts clashes were postponed, however, due to the rain that fell earlier in the

week.

The A.I.S. recorded a fighting 3-1 win over title contenders the Northern Spirit at Christie Park.

The Institute has been struggling for consistency of late but warned all teams that they will not be giving up their title without a fight.

The teams battled out a scoreless first half before the deadlock was broken minutes after the break. Simon Catanzaro, who has played limited minutes in the top grade, gave the Spirit the advantage when he struck after 48 minutes.

Mark Tsiorlas, who has now netted 7 times for the A.I.S., equalised in the 56th minute. The goals swung the momentum towards the visitors yet it was not until the final ten minutes that they sealed their victory.

Two Novocastrians settled the issue. Mitchell Johnson gave the A.I.S. the lead after 80 minutes before Joel Grenell added the third two minutes later.

In Parramatta Power's 4-1 win over Sydney United the visitors led 3-0 nil as John Angelucci went on a first half rampage in scoring a hat-trick in 23 minutes.

Sydney United reduced the deficit when Matthew Zec struck after 25 minutes but the damage was already done.

Brendan Santalab struck in the second half for the Power to restore their three goal buffer.

The 4-1 result, and the three points that come with it, give the

Power a six point lead at the top of the league ladder. Can anybody catch them?

At the Belmore Sports Ground, Sydney Olympic hammered their Academy by seven goals to nil. A five goal blitz in the second half indicated the Youth team's superiority over their younger rivals.

Chris Seitis recorded a double before the break as the goals began to flow. Anthony Doumanis also scored twice for the victors.

Ali Chahine, Robert Gasper and Huseyin Nizam recorded singles.

The clash between cellar dwellers Marconi Stallions Colts and Wollongong Wolves Colts did not produce any real fireworks but did produce three goals.

The Stallions struck twice before the break before the Wolves responded with a goal after the break.

It took three minutes for Rod Sandoval to open the scoring.

Vihad Alemlc doubled the lead just before half time.

Dimitri Zakilas scored the lone goal for the Wolves.

The 2-1 loss condemns the Wolves to their 21st loss this season.

At Brandon Park, the Wollongong Wolves entertained the Marconi Stallions, who have been out of action for one reason or another for the past five weeks.

The 1-1 draw does not favour either side in their quest for a final berth.

The Wolves took the lead in the 33rd minute courtesy of a Steven Markovski goal.

The Wolves held on to their advantage until the 80th minute but just couldn't keep the visitors at bay. Josaja Sauturaga Junior levelled for the Stallions to set up a thrilling final ten minutes.

The clash between the Newcastle Breakers Colts and the Q.A.S. was played late last year to accommodate Q.A.S.

The Q.A.S. defeated their hosts by three goals to one.

### NORTHERN DIVISION NYL

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
<b>PARRAMATTA POWER</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>61</b>
Northern Spirit	25	17	4	2	4	74	30	55
Sydney Olympic	25	15	5	2	5	68	33	50
A.I.S.	26	15	3	1	8	81	37	48
Q.A.S.	23	14	2	2	7	67	38	44
Newcastle Breakers	22	14	1	1	7	42	25	43
Marconi Stallions	20	12	2	1	6	51	25	38
Sydney United	24	12	1	1	11	41	49	37
Wollongong Wolves	25	10	5	2	10	34	37	35
A.C.T.A.S.	23	9	6	2	8	39	43	33
Newcastle Colts	24	9	2	1	13	36	48	29
Olympic Academy	24	9	1	2	14	43	76	28
Marconi Stallions Colts	24	6	4	1	14	37	66	22
N.S.W.I.S.	22	5	5	2	12	34	38	20
Northern Spirit Colts	25	4	6	2	15	25	58	18
Sydney United Colts	22	3	3	2	16	22	54	12
Wollongong Colts	23	0	2	2	21	12	108	2

### ROUND 27

Northern Spirit	1	A.I.S.	3
Catanzaro 48'		Tsiorlas 56', Johnson 80', Grenell 82'	
Sydney United	1	Parramatta Power	4
Zec 75'		Angelucci 11', 17', 23', B Santalab 64	
Marconi Stallions Colts	2	Wollongong Colts	1
Sandoval 3', Alemlc 43'		Zakilas 49'	
Sydney Olympic	7	Olympic Academy	1
Seitis 15', 42', Doumanis 65', 71', Chahine 66', Gasper 81', Nizam 83		Jomaa 90'	
Wollongong Wolves	1	Marconi Stallions	1
Markovski 33'		Junior 80'	
Newcastle Breakers v A.C.T.A.S.			
(Match postponed)			
N.S.W.I.S. v Sydney United Colts			
(Match postponed)			
Bye - Northern Spirit Colts			

### NORTHERN DIVISION

	Leading Scorers	
<b>Russell Miner</b>	<b>Q.A.S.</b>	<b>21</b>
Ryan Griffiths	Northern Spirit	15
Daniel Severino	Marconi Stallions	13
Franco Parisi	A.I.S. (Syd Olympic Academy) 12	
Mark Tsiorlas	A.I.S. (V.I.S.)	12
Elias Demourtzidis	A.I.S.	11
Daniel Kukucka	Parramatta Power	11
Allan Lo Proto	Sydney United	11

### Round 28 Fixtures

**FIRDAY 31 MARCH 2000**  
**A.C.T.A.S. v N.S.W.I.S.** (Breakers Stadium - 5.00pm)  
**Parramatta Power v Newcastle Colts** (Parramatta Stadium - 5.30pm)  
**SATURDAY 1 April 2000**  
**Sydney Utd Colts v Sydney Olympic** (Sydney United Sports Centre - 4.00pm)  
**Wollongong Colts v Sydney United** (Brandon Park No. 2 - 4.00pm)  
**Northern Spirit v Marconi Stallions** (Christie Park - 4.30pm)  
**Northern Spirit Colts v A.I.S.** (Christie Park - 6.30pm)  
**Q.A.S. v Newcastle Breakers** (Suncorp Metway Stadium - 4.45pm)  
**SUNDAY 2 April 2000**  
**SSydney Olympic Academy v Wollongong Wolves** (Wentworth Park - 4.00pm)  
**Bye - Marconi Stallions Colts**

By Roy Hay

Albury Wodonga Warriors gave the Victorian Institute to Sport a real run for its money at Alexandra Park on Saturday, with the VIS getting through by the only goal of the game.

Sam Chambers had another excellent game in the Albury goal, stopping nearly everything which the VIS directed at him. But he could do nothing about David Terek's winner in the 72nd minute as he found space on the edge of the penalty box and fired a shot just inside the far post.

John Ritchie might have given Albury a share of the points in the last minute but contrived to squeeze the ball wide from only three metres out.

Coach Steve Hayes was delighted with the performance of the Warriors hoping that the team can maintain that standard for its remaining three matches.

Bulleen had a convincing four-one win away to Fawkner Blues on Wednesday. Ricky Catalano's sixth minute goal gave Bulleen an early advantage which it held till half-time.

Lucas Fortuna equalised for Fawkner after 51 minutes, but Luigi Gullaci put Bulleen back in front seven minutes later. Gullaci and Catalano each scored again in 75 and 79 minutes to give Bulleen its clear victory.

Preston began its game against South Dandenong with only nine players and when it was seven-nil down in the second half it is alleged that it removed three players so that the referee had no alternative but to declare the match over.

South Dandenong coach Goran Runje was very upset about the outcome, having several players in his own team who had to double up in matches this week-end.

The South Dandenong goalscorers for the record were Festim Zekiri with four, Christian Barra, Fitim Ibraimi and Veton Korcarevski, who also scored last week, though I incorrectly attributed the goal to his brother Qemal.

Melbourne Knights Academy drew one-all with Gippsland Falcons at Knights Stadium on Sunday.

When Alan Paleka was sent off for his second bookable offence it looked as if the young Academy team would fold in the face of Gippsland pressure, especially after Michael Katz put the Falcons ahead midway through the second half.

But the Academy kept plugging away and following a corner kick in the last minute a hand-ball in the box resulted in a penalty expertly converted by Tommy Razov.

The match between Carlton and the Melbourne Knights will be played at Olympic Park on Friday 14 April at 5 pm.

### SOUTHERN DIVISION NYL

<b>Fawkner Blues 1</b>	<b>Bulleen Inter 4</b>
Fortuna	Gullaci 2, Catalano 2
<b>Albury Wodonga 0</b>	<b>VIS 1</b>
	Terek
<b>South Dandenong 7</b>	<b>Preston Lions 0</b>
Zekiri 4, Barra, Ibraimi, Korcarevski	
(Match terminated after 60 minutes)	
<b>Knights Academy 1</b>	<b>Gippsland Falcons 1</b>
Razov	Katz
<b>Carlton v Melbourne Knights - April 14</b> (Olympic Park, 5 pm)	
<b>South Melbourne v Bye</b>	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
<b>Carlton</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>42</b>
VIS	17	13	1	3	48	12	40
Melbourne Knights	16	9	2	5	45	28	29
Bulleen Inter Kings	16	9	2	5	42	29	29
South Melbourne	14	9	0	5	40	14	27
Gippsland Falcons	16	6	4	6	28	34	22
South Dandenong	15	6	3	6	22	27	21
Fawkner Blues	15	4	3	8	17	36	15
Knights Academy	15	3	1	11	13	32	10
Albury Wodonga	17	2	2	13	18	62	8
Preston Lions	15	1	1	13	13	67	4



# Gung-ho Juve wins in style

## Red card Federation Cup Final's turning point

By Nathan Long

**G**unghalin Juventus won its first Federation Cup title in more than a decade when they thumped Tuggeranong United 7-1 in the final at Greenway Oval on Sunday.

Juventus last won the cup in 1988, and the retooled 2000 edition came out looking for blood. They started the game well, controlling the ball and getting the majority of chances in the first 15 minutes. Just 45 seconds into the game, United defender Nick Mathas was given a yellow card for a very heavy tackle on Oscar Zamora.

After absorbing all the early pressure, United started to fight back, using quick balls down the wings to set up a number of chances.

In the 27th minute United's Scott Conlon hit the far post with a free kick, but three minutes later, United scored through Jason Warren-Smith.

It started when Mark Conlon made a run down the left side, stopped, then lofted a cross to Warren-Smith at the top right of the penalty area.

Warren-Smith took the ball on the full and volleyed it into the back of the net.

In the 37th minute, Juventus grabbed an equaliser from George Cattanaach.

From midfield, Stan Blazeovski threaded a pin-point accurate pass through three defenders to Steve Lazzari,

who back-heeled it into open space on the right side for Cattanaach's shot.

The game's turning point came one minute before halftime when Mathas was shown his second yellow card after bringing down Lazzari from behind, while in the penalty area. Craig Rankine calmly slotted the penalty kick past United keeper Matt Turver into the right side of the net.

Down 2-1 and with 10 men, hopes for an upset seemed gone. Juventus made the final execution quick. Seven minutes into the second half, Niall Stoddard headed a John Glass corner into the net for a 3-1 lead.

Two minutes and another corner later, it was 4-1. Zamora tapped the kick to Blazeovski who tapped it straight back to Zamora. He dribbled down the line and crossed to the six yard box where the ball deflected off Stoddard to Lazzari, who drove the ball into the net past a helpless Turver.

From this point on, Juventus completely dominated.

In the 73rd minute Cattanaach crossed from the far right to Lazzari, who turned and passed to his brother, Martin, who shot past a diving Turver for a 5-1 lead.

Two minutes later, Glass picked up a stray ball 25 metres out, directly in front. He fired a rocket into the top-left corner to extend the margin to 6-1.

Steve Lazzari grabbed his double three minutes into injury time with a spec-

tacular solo goal. He evaded four defenders in a weaving 30 metre run and finished it by shooting to the right of the diving Turver.

The Juventus defence held steady through the second half, although it took Zamora saving three genuine chances off the line after keeper Tony Giannasca had been beaten.

Despite conceding they were up against it being down 1-0, Juventus coach Ian Heywood never thought his team would lose, and they had the momentum going into halftime.

"The sending off obviously was the turning point. To go from 1-0 down to one all, and then 2-1 and a man down right on halftime was good to go in, sit the boys down and tinker with a few things for the second half," he said.

Tuggeranong coach Graeme Platt says the send off was vital, because after that they didn't get any width in the back-line through which to push the ball forward. He is now looking towards the start of the regular season.

"It will be a bit of an effort to get the players up and going.

"We've had a fantastic run into where we are now... I think there're very mentally exhausted and I hope they don't get too down because I'm very proud of what they've done," he said.

By Kyle McGarrigle

**G**reenway Oval was the venue for the third versus fourth final of the WIN Television Federation Cup.

Both teams came out hungry to win which resulted in some entertaining, free-flowing soccer.

Canberra Deakin scored 15 minutes into the game after Tony Lemezina put a nice cross to Anthony Barac who headed the ball over Canberra Olympic goal keeper, Mato Batinic.

The scores were levelled in the 44th minute with Takis Arvanitis slotting a nice free kick past the Deakin wall and into the goal.

At half time it was hard to pick between the teams, with the score locked at 1-1 the game could have gone either way.

The second half saw more attacking play from both sides, and 10 minutes in Canberra Deakin took the score to 2-1 with a great goal.

Lemezina took a free kick just outside the box and placed the ball through the Olympic wall into the back of the goal.

At that stage Deakin started to run away with the game, 76 minutes in scoring their third goal.

Vince Bodo crossed the ball to Lemezina who flicked it back to Josip Skrtic to fire the ball in for another Deakin goal.

In the 90th minute Deakin took their lead to 4-1 after Tommy Bajurin cleaned up a Batinic block and scored, finishing off the game nicely.

The win came as a result of Deakin's ability to turn good defence into great attack.

Deakin coach Zoran Glavinic was very happy with the win: "The boys put a lot of effort in this week after the disappointment last week.

"Today's effort was excellent by everyone, it was a really, really good game."

## BILL TURNER CUP

### COMING SOON TO INSIDE SOCCER



## Handbook & Draw



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## WA Night Series

By Brett Klucznik

**T**he semi-finals of the Midland Brick Night Series contested at Litis Stadium saw Inglewood United and Floreat Athena run out triumphant.

In the early fixture, Floreat Athena overcame a determined Fremantle City thanks largely to the efforts of player-of-the-match Doug Ithier.

The former Glory player was instrumental in the 2-1 win, playing a helping hand in the sides first goal before scoring the second himself.

Playing in midfield, Ithier twice tested 'keeper Craig Shanko in the opening half hour. The first came when Ithier climbed highest at a corner to send a powerful header goalward, the City custodian moving swiftly to hold on to the shot.

And with 30 minutes gone, Shanko again proved Ithier's foil as he parried a powerful 25-metre shot.

Athena finally broke through when Ithier sent a searching cross into the City penalty box which was met by Robin Dyers who put a looping header over Shanko and into the far corner of the net.

Any chances City had of making next weekend's final were dashed when Paul McVittie received his marching orders after 61 minutes.

The contest was over six minutes later when Ithier hit a blistering free-kick from 30metres which left Shanko grasping thin air.

City fought against the odds and

were eventually rewarded with a goal from substitute Steve Bourne in the 73rd minute, but they were unable to equalise in the time remaining and for the third year running go out at the semi-final stage of the competition.

Later in the night Inglewood United came from a goal down to earn their place in the final with a 2-1 win over Perth S.C. Perth had gone through the preliminary stages of the competition undefeated, scoring 16 goals and conceding only two in the process.

And boasting a dangerous attacking formation featuring David Onoforo and Adrian Caceras, scorer of eight of those 16 goals, they looked set for a spot in the final when Mark Pottier put them ahead twenty minutes after the interval.

But United, the current Night Series holders, never gave up the fight and bagged two goals in three minutes to win their way through.

Paul Lincoln knocked in the equaliser after 73 minutes, and only minutes later Daniel Harrop scored his second goal in as many outings to set up a Night Series final between two of the League's traditional rivals clubs.

**M**eanwhile in Queensland over the weekend, Brisbane City still lead the XXXX league after they won their sixth game of the season to remain unbeaten. They beat Ipswich 2-0 away.



# Rain-marred round in SL

**P**enrith Panthers Stadium Day 2000 was sadly called off because of rain. Their Saturday evening clash against St George was cancelled on Saturday morning.

The highlight of this weekend's Super League - in which two games were again called-off because of heavy rain in Sydney and surrounding areas during the week - was Blacktown's six goals to nil drubbing of Sutherland at

from the game, but that's football. I'm quite pleased with our efforts considering we've still got quite a few players out with injury, and the job is a challenge with the way things are at the moment. I enjoy that!"

Patikas is expected to bring in three new players next week.

At Jensen Park, Bankstown and Macarthur Rams scored two apiece - but not without a scare for Bankstown

who saw Macarthur race to a 0-2 lead within 30 minutes through goals from Richard Lloyd and Eric Williams. Bankstown golden boy, Goce Trposki, hit back for the home side.

In the final match of the round that went ahead, Fairfield and Parramatta Eagles also drew, 1-1 at Nineveh Field. Fairfield squandered plenty of chances to be ahead throughout the game and can blame only disappointing finishing and good goalkeeping for not gaining three points.

The other washed-out match was the game between Central Coast and Leichhardt at Plum Park.

The top four positions on the Super League ladder are starting to get a comfortable look about them, as Blacktown, Leichhardt, St George and Bonnyrigg jostle for position with only one point separating them.

Leichhardt are in a slightly better position than the other three as they have one game more in hand. Bankstown, Central Coast and Parramatta Eagles then push for the fifth position with Eastern Suburbs and Canterbury Marrickville needing better performances to improve their mid-table positions.

MARK HAGGER	BLACKTOWN	13	Super League top scorers
Johnny Ghisso	Bonnyrigg	10	
Jimmy Aschner	Eastern Suburbs	10	
Steve Karavatakis	Leichhardt	10	
Joe Bruni	Leichhardt	9	
Jim Bakis	St George	9	
Adam Anderson	Parramatta	7	
Nikolce Joseski	Parramatta	7	
Matthew Borg	Fairfield	7	
Colin Luff	Bonnyrigg	7	

Seymour Shaw Park, with Mark Hagger bagging four first-half goals in the process, becoming the leading goalscorer in Super League with 13 goals.

Hagger is the first Blacktown player to score at least three goals in two games since Ross Brown did it for Blacktown in the late 1970s when the Club was known as Toongabbie.

Bonnyrigg needed two second half goals from Colin Luff (one of which was a penalty) to overcome Manly Warringah at Cromer Park, after the home side had led going into the break after an Andre Glucina goal in the 42nd minute.

Despite controlling most of the possession, Canterbury Marrickville suffered another loss to go down 2-1 to Eastern Suburbs at Wentworth Park. Despite the loss, Canterbury Marrickville coach and former Socceroo, Jimmy Patikas, wasn't displeased with the team's efforts.

"We were unlucky not to get a draw

## SOCCER ON THE COAST!

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CENTRAL COAST  
COASTIES  
V  
SUTHERLAND  
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## NSW RESULTS

**FEDERATION DIVISION ONE: FIRST GRADE:** Rockdale City Suns 3 (S Kkuamovski 18m, A Adamo 27m, Z Kuzmanoski 30m), Dulwich Hill 3 (R Todorowski 51m, A Stubbs 53m, T Pontidas 87m): AC United 1 (J Melisorgous 3m), Hajduk Wanderers 0: Illawarra Lions 1 (M Stojanovski 58m), Hurstville City Minotaurs 1 (M Sarikakis 72m): Bathurst '75 1 (A Collins 52m), M.S.C. Liverpool 3 (T Dunlop 51m, A Maiorca 62m, J Amendolia 71m): Fraser Park 0, Auburn United 2 (S Turner 50m, N Vares 79m): Stanmore Hawks, Ryde City Gunners Washed Out. **Under 21:** Rockdale City Suns 2, Dulwich Hill 1: AC United 0, Hajduk Wanderers 0: Illawarra Lions 0, Hurstville City Minotaurs 9: Bathurst '75 3, M.S.C. Liverpool 3: Fraser Park 1, Auburn United 1: Stanmore Hawks, Ryde City Gunners Washed Out. **Under 18:** Rockdale City Suns 1, Dulwich Hill 0: AC United 2, Hajduk Wanderers 1: Illawarra Lions 2, Hurstville City Minotaurs 4: Bathurst '75 2, M.S.C. Liverpool 3: Fraser Park 12, Auburn United 1: Stanmore Hawks, Ryde City Gunners Washed Out.

**FEDERATION DIVISION TWO: First Grade:** Central Coast Lakers, Greystanes Washed Out: Mt Druitt Town Rangers, Sydney District Washed Out: Mt Pritchard 1, University of NSW 0: White City, Sydney University Washed Out: Hakoah 5, Belmore Hercules 1: Hills United, Hurstville ZSC Washed Out. **Under 21:** Central Coast Lakers, Greystanes Washed Out: Mt Druitt Town Rangers, Sydney District Washed Out: Mt Pritchard 2, University of NSW 0: White City, Sydney University Washed Out: Hakoah 0, Belmore Hercules 2: Hills United, Hurstville ZSC Washed Out. **Under 18:** Central Coast Lakers, Greystanes Washed Out: Mt Druitt Town Rangers, Sydney District Washed Out: Mt Pritchard, University of NSW Washed Out: White City, Sydney University Washed Out: Hakoah 0, Belmore Hercules 0: Hills United, Hurstville ZSC Washed Out.

**FEDERATION DIVISION THREE: First Grade:** Balmain 0, Prairiewood United 2: Holy Cross Ryde 0, The Wanderers 2: Prospect United, Colo Colo Washed Out: Camden Tigers, Nepean District Washed Out: Trasandinos 2, Liverpool City 3: Western Sydney Lions, Parramatta City Washed Out. **Reserve Grade:** Balmain 2, Prairiewood United 1: Holy Cross Ryde 5, The Wanderers 2: Prospect United, Colo Colo Washed Out: Camden Tigers, Nepean District Washed Out: Trasandinos 3, Liverpool City 0: Western Sydney Lions, Parramatta City Washed Out.

**FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR - Round 4:** All Games for 1st Grade and Reserve Grade were Washed Out.

**FEDERATION DIVISION FIVE: First Grade:** Liverpool Olympic, Kosciusko Washed Out: Hinchinbrook Chiefs, Bossy Washed Out: Lithgow Workmen 3, Petersham 2: UTS, Birrong Sports Washed Out: Western Sydney Passion, Fairfield City Washed Out. **Reserve Grade:** Liverpool Olympic, Kosciusko Washed Out: Hinchinbrook Chiefs, Bossy Washed Out: Lithgow Workmen 0, Petersham 2: UTS, Birrong Sports Washed Out: Western Sydney Passion, Fairfield City Washed Out.

**WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE: First Grade:** Manly Warringah Dolphins 3, Wollongong Wolves 0: Gladesville Ravens 1, Macarthur Rams 1: Northern NSW/HAS 7, Central Coast Lakers 0: Marconi, Nepean Association Washed Out: Sutherland Sharks 0, NSW Academy 3. **Grade 21:** Manly Warringah Dolphins 2, Wollongong Wolves 2: Gladesville Ravens 0, Macarthur Rams 1: Northern NSW/HAS 7, Central Coast Lakers 3: Marconi, Nepean Association Washed Out.

**WOMENS STATE LEAGUE: First Grade:** Uts 2, CSI Schofields 1: Bathurst City 9, Inter Lions 0: Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 3, Roselands Raptors 4. **Grade 19:** Bathurst City 4, Inter Lions 1: Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 1, Roselands Raptors 0: UTS, CSI Schofields Washed Out.

**SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: Grade 13:** Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 2, Canterbury Marrickville Berries 0: Bankstown City Cubs 5, Fairfield Bulls 0: Bonnyrigg White Eagles Vs Macarthur Rams Washed Out: Sydney United Vs Parramatta Eagles Washed Out: Blacktown City Demons 4, Sydney Olympic 2: Marconi Stallions Vs Central Coast Coasties Washed Out, Penrith Panthers Vs Wollongong Wolves Washed Out: Manly Warringah Dolphins 0, Sutherland Sharks 1: Northern Spirit 4, St George Saints 0: Leichhardt Tigers 2, Newcastle Breakers 4. **Grade 14:** Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 2, Canterbury Marrickville Berries 1: Bankstown City Cubs 3, Fairfield Bulls 1: Bonnyrigg White Eagles Vs Macarthur Rams Washed Out: Sydney United Vs Parramatta Eagles Washed Out: Blacktown City Demons 4, Sydney Olympic 0: Marconi Stallions Vs Central Coast Coasties Washed Out, Penrith Panthers Vs Wollongong Wolves Washed Out: Manly Warringah Dolphins 4, Sutherland Sharks 2: Northern Spirit 4, St George Saints 0: Leichhardt Tigers 0, Newcastle Breakers 2. **Grade 15:** Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 4, Canterbury Marrickville Berries 1: Bankstown City Cubs 2, Fairfield Bulls 1: Bonnyrigg White Eagles Vs Macarthur Rams Washed Out: Sydney United Vs Parramatta Eagles Washed Out: Blacktown City Demons 0, Sydney Olympic 3: Marconi Stallions Vs Central Coast Coasties Washed Out, Penrith Panthers Vs Wollongong Wolves Washed Out: Manly Warringah Dolphins 0, Sutherland Sharks 3: Northern Spirit 1, St George Saints 0: Leichhardt Tigers 1, Newcastle Breakers 5. **Grade 16:** Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0, Canterbury Marrickville Berries 1: Bankstown City Cubs 1, Fairfield Bulls 2: Bonnyrigg White Eagles Vs Macarthur Rams Washed Out: Sydney United Vs Parramatta Eagles Washed Out: Blacktown City Demons 2, Sydney Olympic 0: Marconi Stallions Vs Central Coast Coasties Washed Out, Penrith Panthers Vs Wollongong Wolves Washed Out: Manly Warringah Dolphins 1, Sutherland Sharks 2: Northern Spirit 5, St George Saints 0: Leichhardt Tigers 2, Newcastle Breakers 2.

**DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE - Round 4:** All games for G/13, G/14, G/15 and G/16 were washed out.

**DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE - Round 3:** All games for G/13, G/14, G/15 and G/16 were washed out.

**SUPER CADET LEAGUE: Grade 11:** Central Coast Coasties, Marconi Stallions Washed Out: Penrith Panthers, Wollongong Wolves Washed Out: Manly Warringah Dolphins 0: Sutherland Sharks 1: Bankstown City Cubs 4, Fairfield Bulls 0: Bonnyrigg White Eagles, Macarthur Rams Washed Out: Northern Spirit 2, St George 1: Sydney United, Parramatta Eagles Washed Out: Blacktown City Demons 3, Sydney Olympic 1: Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 2, Canterbury Marrickville Berries 0. **Grade 12:** Central Coast Coasties, Marconi Stallions Washed Out: Penrith Panthers, Wollongong Wolves Washed Out: Manly Warringah Dolphins 2, Sutherland Sharks 2: Bankstown City Cubs 6, Fairfield Bulls 1: Bonnyrigg White Eagles, Macarthur Rams Washed Out: Northern Spirit 3, St George 1: Sydney United, Parramatta Eagles Washed Out: Blacktown City Demons 1, Sydney Olympic 1: Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0, Canterbury Marrickville Berries 7.

**CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: Grade 11:** AC United 3, Hawkesbury City 1: Central Coast Lakers, Hajduk Wanderers Washed Out: Stanmore Hawks, Hills United Washed Out: Hurstville City Minotaurs, Ryde City Washed Out: Illawarra Lions 3, Rockdale City Suns 0: M.S.C. Liverpool, Parramatta City Washed Out: Mt Pritchard, Mt Druitt Town Rangers Washed Out. **Grade 12:** AC United 1, Hawkesbury City 2: Central Coast Lakers, Hajduk Wanderers Washed Out: Stanmore Hawks, Hills United Washed Out: Hurstville City Minotaurs, Ryde City Washed Out: Illawarra Lions 4, Rockdale City Suns 0: M.S.C. Liverpool, Parramatta City Washed Out: Mt Pritchard, Mt Druitt Town Rangers Washed Out.



# Hagger's Swagger! Four more for hotshot

## SUTHERLAND SHARKS 0

## BLACKTOWN DEMONS 6

M Hagger 6m, 17m, 31m, 34m, M Lowe 22m, N Imaya 75m

At Seymour Shaw Park, Sydney.

**B**lacktown City Demons merciless demolition of Sutherland has put the spotlight firmly on striker Mark Hagger. The former Marconi man scored four as City won 6-0.

For the second week running the Demons charge was led by 20 year old Hagger (pictured), bagging four for the game to go with his hat-trick of last week.

His first goal came after only six minutes when Matt Marrals for the Sharks skewed his effort wide after he found himself with the ball unmarked in front of the visitors' goal.

The ball went straight up the opposite end from the goal kick and courtesy of Blacktown defender Paul Yates, Hagger received a great through ball. He easily beat his marker and as he closed in on the Dennes Olla in the Sharks' goal he belted the ball into the back of the net.

Sutherland were as sixes and sevens after this and Hagger, three times, and Damien Borwn, twice, had grate chances to score before the second Blacktown goal arrived on the 17th minute mark.

A short corner from Paul Dee went via Brown and Damon Langan before arriving back with Dee again and he proceeded to provide Hagger with a perfect cross in front of goal and the carrot topped striker made no mistake with his shot.

Five minutes later Hagger, for a change, turned provider rather than finisher, sending Matthew Lowe away into space. Lowe passed it to Naoki Imaya and continued his run to get on the end of Imaya's low cross from the right which he knocked the over the line from close in.

Despite the efforts of Jimmy Corbo, desperately trying to hold his team together, the Sharks were punch drunk and reeling at this stage and conceded two more quick goals in the 31st and 34th minutes.

The first gave Hagger his hat-trick when he belted home Dee's cross after Olla blocked his first attempt and the second, this time set up by a centre from the left sided Steve Riches, increased Hagger's tally to four for the match



and thirteen for the season

Shark coach John Lavin took advantage of the half-time reprieve to re-organise his hapless team and the two changes of Phil Wurth and Andrew Smith gave Sutherland fresh impetus for the second period.

Sutherland picked themselves up off the floor and with a bit of luck may have penetrated the Demons' resolute defence. Levi Stephen, Corbo and Smith all went close before Imaya finally killed off all of their fighting spirit in the 75th minute.

Brown made inroads down the left wing and found Sermanni who in turn picked out Imaya just outside the box.

Imaya, with his back to the goal, steadied himself, swiveled around and blasted his volley between the posts.

With an incredible thirty-six goals in eleven games, midfielder Paul Dee is the only Blacktown out-field player not to have scored this season.

**BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS:** Greco, Foxe, Yates, Lowe, Langan, Riches (Bradley 71), Sermanni, Brown, Dee, Hagger, Imaya (Bennett 75).

**SUTHERLAND:** Olla, Ristovski (Wurth 46), Paradisis, Tedesco, Harrod, Stephen, Merralls, Corbo, Bideau (Smith 46), Salim (Petrou 54), Macdonald.

## Super League Tables

FIRST GRADE:	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS	11	7	1	3	36	10	22	26
Leichhardt Tigers	10	7	1	2	28	14	22	14
St George Saints	11	7	1	3	23	16	22	7
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	11	7	0	4	30	23	21	7
Bankstown City Lions	12	5	4	3	21	15	19	6
Central Coast Coasties	11	5	3	3	20	16	18	4
Parramatta Eagles	11	4	5	2	23	17	17	6
Eastern Suburbs	11	5	0	6	19	19	15	0
Canterbury Marrickville	12	5	0	7	19	31	15	-12
Fairfield Bulls	11	3	3	5	18	20	12	-2
Macarthur Rams	11	2	5	4	16	18	11	-2
Manly Warringah Dolphins	11	2	3	6	14	26	9	-12
Penrith Panthers	10	2	1	7	7	27	7	-20
Sutherland Sharks	11	2	1	8	12	34	7	-22

UNDER 21	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
CENTRAL COAST COASTIES	11	7	2	2	18	12	23	6
Penrith Panthers	10	7	0	3	25	18	21	7
Parramatta Eagles	12	6	3	3	22	14	21	8
Blacktown City Demons	11	6	3	2	23	16	21	7
Manly Warringah Dolphin	11	5	1	5	23	21	16	2
Leichhardt Tigers	10	5	1	4	18	16	16	2
St George Saints	11	3	4	4	20	16	13	4
Sutherland Sharks	12	3	4	5	17	25	13	-8
Macarthur Rams	11	5	1	5	16	20	16	-4
Fairfield Bulls	11	3	3	5	15	19	12	-4
Eastern Suburbs	11	2	5	4	17	21	11	-4
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	11	3	4	4	15	18	13	-3
Canterbury Marrickville	12	3	2	7	18	26	11	-8
Bankstown City Lions	12	2	3	7	23	28	9	-5

UNDER 18	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
PARRAMATTA EAGLES	12	8	1	3	34	17	25	17
Fairfield Bulls	11	9	0	2	28	14	27	14
Blacktown City Demons	11	7	3	1	20	9	24	11
Leichhardt Tigers	10	6	2	2	25	16	20	9
Central Coast Coasties	11	5	2	4	26	18	17	8
Macarthur Rams	11	4	4	3	16	15	16	1
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	11	4	2	5	16	16	14	0
Bankstown City Lions	12	4	3	5	20	26	15	-6
Penrith Panthers	10	3	4	3	14	11	13	3
Eastern Suburbs	11	3	4	4	17	24	13	-7
Sutherland Sharks	12	3	4	5	17	16	13	1
St George Saints	11	2	3	6	14	35	9	-21
Manly Warringah Dolphins	11	3	0	8	13	18	9	-5
Canterbury Marrickville	12	0	2	10	10	35	2	-25

## SUPER LEAGUE

## ROUND THIRTEEN

Saturday 1 April

White Eagles v Penrith Panthers - Serbian Centre

Game 7.00pm (1st grade) - 5.00pm (21s) - 3.00pm (18s)

Blacktown City Demons v Fairfield Bulls - Gabbie Stadium

Game 6.00pm (1st grade) - 4.00pm (21s) - 2.00pm (18s)

Central Coast Coasties v Sutherland Sharks - Plum Park

Game 6.00pm (1st grade) - 4.00pm (21s) - 2.00pm (18s)

Sunday 2 April

St George Saints v Leichhardt Tigers - St George Stadium

Manly Warringah Dolphins v Macarthur Rams - Cromer Park

Canterbury Marrickville v Bankstown City Lions - Henson Park

Eastern Suburbs v Parramatta Eagles - Wentworth Park

Games 3.00pm (1st grade)-1.00pm (21s)-11.00pm (18s).

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### FIRST GRADE: SUPER LEAGUE

SUTHERLAND SHARKS 0

BLACKTOWN CITY 6

M Hagger 6m, 17m, 31m, 34m, M Lowe 22m, N Imaya 75m.

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES

LEICHHARDT TIGERS

(Postponed)

PENRITH PANTHERS

ST GEORGE SAINTS

(Postponed)

MANLY WARRINGAH DOLPHINS 1

A Glucina 42m.

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES 2

C Luff pen 70m/85m.

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS 2

G Trposki 39m/56m.

MACARTHUR RAMS 2

R Lloyd 12m, E Williams 30m.

EASTERN SUBURBS 2

D Segreto 42m, PPulicino 85m.

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE 1

J Mendes 56m.

FAIRFIELD BULLS 1

S Larocca 44m.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES 1

A Anderson 65m.

UNDER 21:

Sutherland Sharks 2

Central Coast Coasties

Penrith Panthers

Manly Warringah 1

Blacktown City 3

Leichhardt Tigers (PP)

St George Saints (PP)

Bonnyrigg WE 2

Bankstown City Lions 0

Eastern Suburbs 1

Fairfield Bulls 1

UNDER 18:

Sutherland Sharks 1

Central Coast Coasties

Penrith Panthers

Manly Warringah 3

Bankstown City Lions 2

Eastern Suburbs 3

Fairfield Bulls 2

Macarthur Rams 3

Canterbury M'kville 1

Parramatta Eagles 1

Blacktown City 1

Leichhardt Tigers (PP)

St George Saints (PP)

Bonnyrigg WE 2

Macarthur Rams 2

Canterbury M'kville 1

Parramatta Eagles 1

### WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE ROUND SIX RESULTS

Manly Warringah Dolphins 3 Wollongong Wolves 0

Gladesville Ravens 1 Macarthur Rams 1

Sutherland Sharks 0 NSW Ins Sport/Acad 3

Marconi Nepean Assoc. (PP)

Northern NSW/HAS 7 Central Coast Lakers 0

### ROUND SEVEN DRAW

Saturday 1 April

Manly Warringah Dolphins v Nepean Association

Cromer Park 3.00 PM/1.00 PM

Sunday 2 April

Macarthur Rams v Sutherland Sharks

Lynwood Park 3.00PM/1.00PM

Gladesville Ravens v Northern NSW/HAS

Peel Park 3.00 PM/1.00PM

Marconi v Central Coast Lakers

Marconi No 2 3.00 PM/1.00 PM

Wollongong Wolves v NSW Inst Sport/Academy

Brandon Park 3:00PM



# Neceski stars as Green Gully equals record

## GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 3

Kutlesovski 45, Neceski 76, 87

## FAWKNER BLUES 1

Psarros 40.

Sunday night at Green Gully Reserve, Kealba. Crowd: 500.



By Markian Jaworsky

**H**aving won seven on the trot, Green Gully came out on their home turf looking to equal their record of eight straight back in their championship year of 1976.

But not if Fawknor had anything to say about it. In fact, for 75 minutes Fawknor actually showed Green Gully to be human, with the basic tactic of man-to-man marking, total smothering of the mid-field and penalty box, and that good old fashioned attitude of not giving an inch.

It was Fawknor's first half, and they should have scored after just two minutes of play.

Peter Psarros did well to set up Tramontana to cross, only for Shrifovski to head over just one yard from the goalline.

After eleven minutes of play Kutlesovski could have had a penalty, picked himself up again and managed to squeeze in a shot out of a crowded Fawknor defense.

Fawknor's keeper Maurice Gonzalez

Gonzalez managed to just tip it past the post.

Green Gully were surprisingly getting beaten in midfield, and the Gully defence got sloppy.

After some long punts up forward, Psarros managed to break free in the 30th minute, and got himself into a one on one duel with Gully's Robert Brian.

Psarros tried to dribble, but Brian got the ball.

After 34 minutes, Psarros setup Emmanuele who also tried to dribble Brian and also lost out.

With 40 minutes on the clock, Mangos made a mess of the Fawknor long ball, attempting a short pass to the last man, which was intercepted by Psarros, who made no mistake this time chipping the advancing Brian. Fawknor brought Green Gully down to its knees.

However, just before the haltime break, Sonny Sevin, one of the best crosses of the ball in the country, sent in the most delightful ball for Kutlesovski to chest down

did well to save.

Two minutes later, Sonny Sevin sent in a perfect cross for Sash Becvinovski to head at goal, and again

and tap in from close range.

Fair to say that that goal took out the sting of what would have been a heated half-time speech from Gully's coach, Dobson.

Just after the break, Psarros sent a 25 yard rocket whistling just past Gully's right post.

The second half started very much like the first, and Green Gully were finding it very hard to get any space at all from Fawknor.

But it is the depth of a squad that gives a team week in week out results.

Not only do Green Gully enjoy a 100% record 7 rounds in, but as fortune would have it the Green Gully reserves also sit on top of the table.

Such is the depth of Green Gully that Dobson had the luxury of bringing on Green Gully's top scorer from last season, Tony Neceski.

Green Gully had picked up the tempo and began to bring the game back to Fawknor, stepping up a couple of gears. Svigos the ignition of the Green Gully engine.

His deflected cross in the 74th minute produced one of the all time great saves from Gonzalez, who had to ran back onto his line, diving, twisting, lunging and tipping the ball so that it just slid over the crossbar.

With just 14 minutes to go, Svigos sent a rolling 30 yard through ball that Paul Gascoigne would have been proud of, to an open Tony Neceski who blasted Green Gully into the lead for the first time in the evening.

Fawknor had run out of legs, and the match had turned on its head.

On 87 minutes, it was Svigos again who found Neceski who powered in his header past the back post.

Green Gully equals its club record of eight straight wins.

\*Pic of Charles Farrugia by Markian Jaworsky



Terrific Tony: Tony Neceski showed he still has the goalscoring touch.

### MATCH STATS:

#### GREEN GULLY:

Brian, Atanasovski(Velkovski 45), Douglas, Mangos, Spiteri, Sevin, Kutlesovski, Georgiadis, Becvinovski (Suric 70), Vassallo (Neceski 60), Svigos.

#### FAWKNER BLUES:

Gonzalez, Tramontana, Stojcevski, Vazzocchi, Schipano, Desants, Murphy, Panebianes, Emmanuele, Psarros, Shrifovski.

Referee: Cain Naumcevski.

#### Yellows:

Green Gully: Brian 54, Mangos 70. Fawknor: Shrifovski 20.

#### Best Players:

3. MAURICE GONZALEZ (FAWKNER BLUES)

2. George Svigos (Green Gully)

1. Tony Neceski (Green Gully)

**COMING SOON ...**  
**Green Gully President**  
**Charles Farrugia**  
Speaking with  
**MARKIAN**  
**JAWORSKY**



# Raiders spoil Bulleen's big night

## BULLEEN ZEBRAS 0

MELBOURNE RAIDERS 2

Gascovski 38, 83  
Round 7: Monday night March 20  
at Veneto Club, Melbourne.



By Steven Bricknell

**I**n a match both teams were desperate to win to climb away from the foot of the table it was the Melbourne Raiders who gained the points after a solid 2-0 victory over Bulleen at the Veneto Club on Monday night.

The result was a real blow to the Bulleen team on a night when the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mr Justin Madden officially announced the ground as an official Olympic-training venue.

The first real chance of the night fell to the visitors when Anthony Boschini managed to get to a near post corner only



for him to sky the ball over the bar.

After this though it was all one way traffic with Bulleen creating many chances but lacking the vital final touch.

Warren Spink missed the first of these when the diminutive striker sent a glancing header into the side netting after good pressure from Melbourne's defence.

Spink was at it again just minutes later when a headed on throw by Berkan Sakac saw confusion in the Raiders defence, the ball fell to Spink who unselfishly laid the ball Nicholas Schnal but he shot wide of the left upright.

Against the run of play though the Melbourne Raiders took the lead.

John Gasparini gained the ball in midfield, a great turn saw him able to send a probing ball into the penalty box which Jim Gascovski headed past an advancing

Jamie Cooper in the Bulleen goal to put the Raiders ahead after 38 minutes.

By the start of the second half the Bulleen faithful were becoming increasingly restless.

Their mood was further compounded when just three minutes into the second half, half time substitute Chris Fmsovski blasted a free kick from the edge of the area out of the ground.

The home fans were on their feet though just four minutes later when it appeared the Zebras had drawn level, Danny Gnjdjic bundled the ball over the line but was adjudged to have fouled Chris Vella in goal for the Raiders.

Melbourne seemed happy to give the Zebras the bulk of possession and defend in numbers with Bulleen time and time again breaking down in their attacking third.

With time winding down and the Zebras pouring more and more men forward something had to give.

Indeed it was the Raiders who sealed

their win seven minutes from time.

Anthony Boschini was sent a beautiful ball on the counter attack, he then proceeded to beat two defenders and send another long ball to Gascovski who calmly rounded the keeper and slotted the ball home to ensure the Raiders collected full points.

The referee finally put the home side out of their misery with many of their fans already on the way home.

**Bulleen:** Cooper, Damiano, Mazzini (Fmsovski 45), P. Della Rocca, Schnal, Tartaglia, Sakac (Thomas 71), Guglielmi, Rusmir (Caimakamis 67), Gnjdjic, Spink.

**Melbourne Raiders:** Vella, Maglic (Disauro 71), Anatasion, D. Della Rocca, Grbac, Boschini, Plunkott, Gasparini (Soufi-Sabbag 83), Cucoloski, Iacovita, Gascovski.

Referee: Cain Naumcevski





# Markovski double wins it for Greens

## ST ALBANS SAINTS 1

Trupkovic 73

## BENTLEIGH GREENS 2

Markovski 55,59

Sunday afternoon at Churchill Reserve, Melbourne.



By Mark Fisher

**B**entleigh took away full points from their visit to Churchill Reserve, St Albans, and despite players from both sides getting a bit hot under the collar at times, the Greens applied themselves more convincingly to the task at hand, winning 2-1.

Lining up for the Greens in attack were the defiant David Breslin and Sash Markovski, who were assisted by Will Hastie playing behind those two.

Stalwart Jim McDonagh was steely at centre half, and he, along with outstanding defender Theo Constantinou offered aerial supply to these front three, in a game-plan courtesy of new coach Gary Cole that

used the long-ball to reasonable effect.

It took Bentleigh however the first ten minutes of the match to settle, after St Albans' Matt Urlovic made some easy running down the right flank.

In the 7th minute he could have set up former Carlton youth player Dennis Ekeci with a prod past Bentleigh's custodian Glenn Clarke.

His driving cross nonetheless went just in front of Ekeci's outstretched right boot and into the gathering arms of Clarke instead.

Then the complexion of the match changed gradually in favour of the visitors. Right defender Tom Klarica's performance for the Saints was a real mixed bag, and his foul on Doug Mladenovic in the 11th minute gave Bentleigh their first real chance of the game.

The resultant free kick to former Gippslander Will Hastie caught the head of Breslin, who couldn't keep his shot on tar-

get, nodding the ball just over the bar.

Further free kicks around the area were to be won by the Greens, who maintained steady pressure on the home side throughout the game.

Defender Stelios Drakos delighted the crowd by sending an overhead kick towards the right corner of the goal, bringing out a terrific leaping save from Martin Vunderl for the Saints, who parried the ball wide for a corner.

Despite some late first half chances on goal, including a sharp header from Ekeci inside stoppage time which brought out a high slips catch by Clarke to his right, Bentleigh seemed more likely to tear away after the break.

Which is exactly what transpired. Constantinou broke through St Albans' attacking line to rebound his team forward.

He took a few paces before sending a long searching pass via the inside right corridor to Sash Markovski. What the big striker did then was simply breath-taking.

Markovski cut inside, weaved around Slavko Rados and Tom Klarica, and then worked his way into the area. He then blasted a low shot with his left foot past the outstretched hand of surprised goalkeeper Vunderl.

Bentleigh were up 1-0 after 55 minutes.

If that effort wasn't enough, Markovski proved worthy of an encore with equal brilliance from his other boot.

Seizing on a weak pass from Klarica to Cuze, Markovski nipped inside towards the central edge of the box, and then rifled the ball low with his

right foot past the badly exposed 'keeper once again.

The Saints didn't drop their bundle completely after that double setback, and the feisty Mijo Trupkovic gave his side a glimmer of late hope in the 73rd minute of the game.

He managed to net from the volley after a nod-back by Kon Sianidis, after Sianidis received a pin-point high cross at the far post.

The remaining minutes of the match wound down as Bentleigh's defence took advantage of St Albans' poorly executed build-ups in the last twenty minutes of the game.

An encouraging result for the team from deep in Melbourne's south-east, which should give them confidence in their pursuit of runaway league leaders Green Gully.

### ST ALBANS

Vunderl, Klarica, Cuze, Hrehoresin, Rados (Movric), Raspudic, Vojtek, Sianidis, Urlovic, Ekeci, Trupkovic

### BENTLEIGH

Clarke, Karapatsos, Constantinou, Drakos, McDonagh, Micheil, Kourkoutzelou, Hastie, Mladenovic (Kotsovolos), Markovski, Breslin

### Best Players:

3 - BRESLIN (BENTLEIGH)  
2 - Markovski (Bentleigh)  
1 - Constantinou (Bentleigh)

## VPL RESULTS

### FIRST GRADE

OAKLEIGH CANNONS 3  
Sastre, Psois, Nalpantidis

PRESTON LIONS 1  
Ozogriski.

ALTONA MAGIC 1  
Petrevski

ALTONA EAST PHOENIX 0

ST ALBANS SAINTS 1

Trupkovic

BENTLEIGH GREENS 2  
Markovski (2)

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 3  
Necesi (2), Kutlesovski

FAWKNER BLUES 1  
Psarros

### UNDER 23's:

Oakleigh Can. 1 Preston Lions 3

Altona Magic 0 East Phoenix 2

St Albans Sts 2 Bentleigh Grns 6

Green Gully 5 Fawkner Blues 2

### PLAYED MONDAY NIGHT:

Heidelberg United v Bulleen Zebras  
Melbourne Raid. v Port Melbourne

### FIRST GRADE

#### GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

Bentleigh Greens  
St Albans Saints  
Altona Magic  
Oakleigh Cannons  
Altona East Phoenix  
Melbourne Raiders  
Preston Lions  
Fawkner Blues  
Port Melb. Sharks  
Heidelberg United  
Bulleen Zebras

#### P W D L F A P

8 8 0 0 23 4 24  
8 5 1 2 16 9 16  
8 3 3 2 14 10 12  
8 3 3 2 11 12 12  
8 3 2 3 12 14 11  
8 3 2 3 6 8 11  
7 2 2 3 9 10 8  
8 2 2 4 10 13 8  
8 2 2 4 8 13 8  
7 2 1 4 13 17 7  
7 2 0 5 10 17 6  
7 1 2 3 9 14 5

### RESERVES

#### GREEN GULLY CAV

Bentleigh Greens  
Port Melbourne Sharks  
St Albans Saints  
Altona East Phoenix  
Altona Magic  
Preston Lions  
Bulleen Zebras  
Fawkner Blues  
Oakleigh Cannons  
Melbourne Raiders  
Heidelberg United

#### P W D L F A P

8 6 1 1 31 8 19  
8 6 0 2 30 10 18  
7 4 2 1 16 12 14  
8 3 4 1 18 15 13  
8 3 2 3 11 14 11  
8 3 2 3 18 22 11  
8 2 3 2 23 17 9  
7 2 1 4 19 18 7  
8 2 1 5 16 24 7  
8 1 3 4 6 20 6  
7 1 2 4 13 26 5  
7 1 2 4 8 22 5



## VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

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## ROUND NINE

Sunday 2 April

Fawkner Blues v Port Melbourne Sharks - CB Smith Reserve  
3.00 First Grade/1.00(Reserves)

Preston Lions v Green Gully Cavaliers -

BT Connor Reserve - 3.00 (First Grade)/1.00 (Reserves)  
Altona East Phoenix v Oakleigh Cannons - Paisley Reserve  
3.00(First Grade)/1.00(Reserves)

Bentleigh Greens v Altona Magic - Kingston Heath SC  
3.00(First Grade)/1.00(Reserves)

Monday 3 April

Bulleen Zebras v St Albans Saints - Veneto Club  
8.15(First Grade)/6.15Reserves)

Heidelberg United v Melbourne Raiders - Olympic Village  
8.15(First Grade)/6.15Reserves)



# Napier starts new competition in style

By Jeremy Ruane

**N**apier City Rovers, so often thereabouts when the major trophies in New Zealand soccer are being dished out at the end of the season, indicated that they would be in the hunt again this year, dishing out a 4-0 hiding to Chatham Cup holders Dunedin Technical on the opening day of the Ansett National Club Championship.

The newly revamped National League competition sees ten teams contesting the crown on a home-and-away round-robin basis, with the added highlights of a play-off series featuring the top four teams at the end of the eighteen rounds, and a bonus point for teams who score more than three goals in a match.

Napier became the first beneficiaries of the latter incentive, former All White Martin Akers scoring twice in his team's rout of the southern raiders.

Chris McIvor and Dean Johnston added the extras for 'The Blues', three of whose goals came in the second half.

The newly-amalgamated Christchurch City combination, formed following the merger of the Woolston and Christchurch Technical clubs during the close-season, began their alliance in fine fashion, downing Metro 3-1 in the Garden City.

Two goals in four minutes from Michael Sands before the half-hour mark quickly cancelled out Graham Green's twenty-second minute opener for the Auckland club, with Nathan Knox wrapping up the points for City three minutes from time.

That was the moment when Matt Fowler struck from the penalty spot to secure Central United a point in a 2-2 draw with Nelson Suburbs at Kiwitea Street.

The visitors struck after just 102 seconds, Commins Menapi netting from the penalty spot, and extended their advantage through Toby Kroon in the twentieth minute.

A decidedly under-strength Central combination - four of their first-choice players are with the OlyWhites in Japan, while captain Michael Ridenton is injured - fought back however, with Campbell Banks leading the charge. But time and again he found Nelson goalkeeper Steven Pike barring the way to goal - the custodian had a splendid game.

He was beaten by Fowler's free-kick in the 63rd minute however, the ball bouncing down off the cross-bar and into the path of lively substitute Daniel Koprivic, who steered the ball home, and was the player felled to earn the point-securing penalty late in the match.

Miramar Rangers and Manawatu also shared four goals in their encounter at Centennial Park.

Manawatu went to the break a goal to the good courtesy Shane Cunliffe, but Tim Butterfield levelled matters three minutes into the second spell.

Ian Robinson edged the visitors ahead again in the 68th minute, but an own goal ten minutes from time saw the spoils shared in the capital.

The Auckland derby at Bill McKinlay Park saw the newly-combined University-Mt. Wellington club continue Waitakere City's twelve-year-long record of never having won their opening match of the season, the home side emerging triumphant 3-2 over their much-fancied opponents.

Stu Roberts opened the scoring for Uni-Mount, only for Hamish Carmody to level matters right on half-time. A quick exchange of goals - an own goal putting Uni-Mount ahead in the 51st minute, before Paul Stephens levelled matters sixty seconds later - sparked the second half into life, with the coup de grace being applied twelve minutes from time.

James Patterson's splendid individual goal gave the six-times champions of the old-style National League the perfect start to their pursuit of success in its twenty-first century replacement, and capped off a fine start to the life of the newly-amalgamated club.

## NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND ONE RESULTS

<b>Central United</b> D. Koprivic (63) M. Fowler (87, pen)	<b>2-2</b>	<b>Nelson Suburbs</b> C. Menapi (2, pen) T. Kroon (20)
<b>Christchurch City</b> M. Sands (25, 29) N. Knox (87)	<b>3-1</b>	<b>Metro</b> G. Green (22)
<b>Miramar Rangers</b> T. Butterfield (48) "Oggie" (80)	<b>2-2</b>	<b>Manawatu</b> S. Cunliffe (26) I. Robinson (68)
<b>Napier City Rovers</b> M. Akers (14, 46) C. McIvor (59) D. Johnston (85)	<b>4-0</b>	<b>Dunedin Tech.</b>
<b>Uni-Mt. Wellington</b> S. Roberts (10) "Oggie" (51) J. Patterson (78)	<b>3-2</b>	<b>Waitakere City</b> H. Carmody (41) P. Stephens (52)

## ROUND TWO FIXTURES (2PM, APRIL 2)

**Dunedin Technical v. Central United**  
New Caledonian Ground, Dunedin  
**Manawatu v. Christchurch City**  
Memorial Park, Palmerston North  
**Metro v. Napier City Rovers**  
Albie Turner Field, Auckland  
**Nelson Suburbs v. University-Mt. Wellington**  
Trafalgar Park, Nelson  
**Waitakere City v. Miramar Rangers**  
Fred Taylor Park, Auckland

Coming soon...

Wolves' new signing from

Burnley, **MARK**

**ROBERTSON,** plus

Steaua Bucharest's young

Aussie and ex-Breaker

**JOSH MAGUIRE**

## Socceroo and Czech squads

Continued from page three

Josip Skoko will be his central midfield partner with Steve Corica and Danny Tiatto on either side of the two.

Farina will resist temptation to switch Harry Kewell to a deeper lying role behind twin strikers by playing him up front as Mark Viduka's striking partner.

This will be the second time that the two countries have met this year with the Matildas having played their Czech Republic counterpart in an Australian Cup game earlier in the season. A similar result, a 3-1 win to the Matildas, would be a tremendous boost to Farina and Australian football.

### AUSTRALIA:

Mark Bosnich Manchester United (England), Zeljko Kalac Roda JC (Holland), Kevin Muscat Wolverhampton Wanderers (England), Luke Casserly AK Solna (Sweden), Stan Lazaridis Birmingham City (England), Jason van Blerk West Bromwich Albion (England), Craig Moore Rangers (Scotland), Shaun Murphy Sheffield United (England), Tony Popovic Sanfrece Hiroshima (Japan), Paul Okon (capt) Fiorentina (Italy), Josip Skoko Racing Genk (Belgium), Richard Johnson Watford (England), Craig Foster Crystal Palace (England), Steve Corica Sanfrece Hiroshima (Japan), Danny Tiatto Manchester City (England), Mark Viduka (pictured) Celtic (Scotland), Harry Kewell Leeds United (England), Paul Agostino 1860 Munich (Germany)

### CZECH REPUBLIC:

Goalkeepers: Jaromir Blazek (Sparta Prague), Pavel Srnicek (Sheffield Wednesday)  
Defenders: Milan Fukal, Petr Gabriel (both Sparta Prague), Karel Rada, Petr Vizek (both Slavia Prague), Tomas Repka (Fiorentina) Midfielders: Radek Bejbl (Atletico Madrid), Martin Cizek (TSV 1860 Munich), Pavel Horvath, Ivo Ulich (both Slavia Prague), Jiri Nemec (Schalke 04), Pavel Nedved (Lazio), Karel Poborsky (Benfica) Strikers: Jan Koller (Anderlecht), Vratislav Lokvenc (Sparta Prague), Vladimir Smicer (Liverpool), Pavel Verbir (Teplice).

\*The game will be shown live by SBS early Thursday morning.





# Readers' forum

**T**here are a lot of disadvantages in the delay in the NSL restructuring -- many of them revolving around the prospect of one more year of treading water. There is a potential advantage in the delay, in allowing time to think through the restructuring and doing it right. However, there's no chance of getting it right without thinking it through first.

Take one example of what can follow from thinking things through. Previously, I have written *Inside Soccer* about the problems of a metropolitan Sydney/Melbourne based Division II connected to a national Division I.

In another issue, a letter writer pointed out the problems of scheduling an adequate number of games for a twelve team Division I which aspires to play fully professional football.

I have also noted various soccer commentators talking about the supposed need to have soccer players in our national league play a more extended season.

However, all of this ignores one of the primary problems faced by soccer in Australia. This is the difficulty in gaining media attention in a country where soccer is not seen as one of the main professional sports. How does extending the season help with this problem?

The answer, clearly, is that it does not. The longer the season, the less is at stake in each game.

It is natural to want to emulate the "big leagues" of Europe: after all, they enjoy a level of success that we can only dream of at this stage.

But it is important to bear in mind that soccer is the dominant sport in these countries. A top club in a major European league must play games to generate the revenue from the top players so that they can afford to pay the salaries and transfer fees required to sign the top players.

And the more successful they are, the higher the salaries and transfer fees are driven.

Australia soccer clubs face a quite different problem: generating more interest in their sport. There are elements from the "big leagues" which can be used to help, but they cannot be taken on board blindly.

The first element is, of course, promotion and relegation. What is less interesting in an Australian national league than a game between the last and second last team?

But with promotion and relegation, there is a race at both ends of the table, and a game between the bottom clubs is the chance for a win that both need desperately.

However, since soccer is not a dominant sport, the problem of viability for the second division must be faced. The only realistic solution to this problem is a regional structure for the Second Divisions.

The second element that can help generate interest is the Cup competition. In most European leagues, there are two champions a year, except when a team wins the double.

In all Australian national competitions, there is only one champion. The extra drama of two distinct competitions is heightened by the Cinderella story of lower division clubs making a run into the Cup competition.

The most successful Cup competition is the one which generates the most drama: the original, single-elimination, barrel draw, FA Cup.

The one part of the traditional Cup competition which does not fit the Australian situation is running the Cup competition and the regular season in parallel. It is difficult enough getting media attention for one soccer competition at a time, let alone two.

Rather, a Cup competition provides the

perfect opportunity to have Division I clubs play more games, without diluting the impact of their regular season games.

If Division I is made up of twelve teams, then two six-team groups to qualify for the Cup knockout provides ten additional games in the group stage, in addition to the games provided in the Cup knockout tournament itself.

For Division II teams, the problem is to provide enough game play within Division II to be well-prepared for the Cup competition itself.

However, travel expenses are a greater problem for Division II clubs, so that a more modest group stage is called for. With a Division II consisting of two twelve team regions, then three four-team groups per region gives a six game lead-up to the Cup knockout tournament.

If the first place team in each second division group advances to the Cup competition, then Round One includes six second division teams. Having the third placed first-division teams advance into

Round One rounds out the draw at eight. In Round Two, the first and second place teams from the Division I groups can advance together with the four teams advancing from Round One.

Four teams advance into Round Three, and teams advance from Round Three into the Cup Final. All allocations are by barrel draw, so that if Cup Rounds are played on Friday and Saturday evenings, the draw for the next round takes place on Sunday.

In order to avoid delays, there is no chance to play a return game in event of a draw.

The dreadful spectacle of two teams playing to reach penalty kicks might be avoided by having a golden goal overtime with the away team advancing in the case of a draw.

With one team forced to play for a win, the likelihood is much higher that a golden goal would settle the contest one way or the other.

Another wrinkle can add to the drama: a second-chance tournament, similar to the Plate competitions in Rugby World Sevens.

The six second-placed Division II teams, plus the two fourth-placed Division I teams, may advance into Round One of the Plate. The teams advancing from Round One and the teams failing to advance in Round, one of the Cup advances into Round Two of the Plate.

The Plate progresses this way through to a Fourth Round, which leads into the Plate Final.

With a fortnight between Round Three of the Cup and the Cup Final, the Plate Final can be played as the lead-in game for the Cup Final. And then immediately after the Cup and Plate finals, the regular seasons of Divisions I and II are launched.

This gives 37 rounds of football for Division I clubs prior to the finals series, which is surely enough football. Overlaps with the winter football codes in Australia will take place primarily during the group stage of the Cup and the finals.

For Division II clubs, the group stage games can be counted as regular season games, which leaves only 14 rounds remaining once the Cup knockout begins.

This also permits Division II clubs to finish their regular season and play their finals series before the Division I regular season is completed.

Now, I am not going to claim that this particular competition structure is the ideal: obviously, there is likely to be an even better competition structure out there waiting to be developed. However, compare it with the competition that is currently envisioned.

In this competition, a twelve team top division and ten league second division seem to be plucked out of the air.

The top division teams will likely play three games against each opponent, with half the teams having the general advantage

of an extra home game, and one or more certain to have the advantage of the balance of their home-away-home series against stronger teams and the balance of their away-home-away series against weaker teams.

As currently envisioned, one or more teams in the finals series will have been determined in the regular season draw at the start of the year.

By contrast, in the structure put forward here, the organisation of the teams into a twelve team top division and two twelve team second divisions fits naturally with the organisation of the competition that the teams will be competing in.

Since the "product" that a club is selling is participation in a competition, this is as it should be.

**Bruce McFarling,  
Shortland, NSW**

**T**he NSW Soccer Federation and a number of Super League clubs are making a serious push for a summer competition to run parallel with the National League. The main reasons given are that it will presumably increase crowds and bring more publicity to Super League by playing at the same time as the National competition.

Whilst the idea is to be applauded, anything that can improve the current image of Super League should be considered. And one must consider the facts in a sensible manner before pushing headlong into a new concept.

Summer soccer was introduced mainly to get away from the stranglehold that Rugby League and Aussie Rules had on all types of winter football. Rather than fight them in the winter the then Australian Soccer Federation decided to 'go summer'. Rugby Union has since shown that you can fight them and win!

At first the novel idea brought great crowds and much publicity but, with the exception of a few clubs, crowds today are well down and you really have to search in the national press for soccer news unless it's about overseas soccer or Aussies playing abroad!

The NSW Summer Soccer idea has much food for thought:

**Players:** many clubs are saying that if players play summer soccer in the National League they will play in the NSW Summer League.

Most players would play on National League terms but will they play and train in the heat of the summer for the pittance that they draw from most Super League clubs?

Many national league players play in that competition because it is a stepping stone to the National teams or to a possibility of a contract overseas. Very few Super League players get these offers.

**Publicity:** The current publicity of Super League, with a few exceptions, is nil. How will playing parallel with the National League improve it? The few soccer reporters that are around go to National League matches.

Even in winter when the National League isn't in recess they are not interested in Super League and do you really expect the national papers to publish articles on Super League when the National League competition is playing?

They get hardly any publicity as it is!

**Crowds:** The idea that NSW Summer Soccer will increase the crowds is laughable. The truth is that the current Super League matches draw average crowds of 200 to 300 spectators.

The majority of these spectators are parents, family members, partners or girlfriends of players or ex-club members.

Very few can be called fans or club supporters. Even the few ethnic based clubs playing in Super League who use to draw very good crowds are suffering because the older generations have passed on and the younger generations are finding other sports

or lapping up the Australian way of life.

If the mums and dads won't come along in winter what chances have they in summer when little Johnnie wants to go swimming, surfing or staying at home and playing on the computer?

**Facilities:** The majority of the ground used by Super League clubs play on are not up to the required standard set by the NSW Soccer Federation for the winter competition and the additional requirements set down for Summer Soccer where is the money coming from to upgrade these grounds?

Many grounds have no covered seating and the majority of seating at some grounds is sitting on the grass bank or leaning on the boundary fence!

Some have no floodlights and the facilities at some grounds are pre World War II standard. The general public have only a limited budget to spend on entertainment and most can only afford to go to one game each weekend.

If they have the choice of going to a National League match with covered seating, modern facilities and possibly be entertained by a few of our national team players or a Summer League match, where are they going to go?

**Club Management:** National League clubs have full time professional staff to manage their business. Super League clubs, with a few exceptions, are run by part time volunteers.

With the advent of Summer Soccer these volunteers will now be expected to work twelve months a year, in the summer for Summer League and in the winter for their Youth and Cadet League teams.

It is hard enough now to get workers for any club - Summer Soccer will make it even harder. It will also tend to split the club into two separate functions.

**Finances:** Most Super League clubs struggle to balance their books at the moment and with the added expected expenses of Summer League such as travelling and overnight accommodation costs (remember Summer Soccer will be a State wide competitions not just Sydney clubs) many clubs will struggle.

Unless each club can come up with a big sponsor with plenty of money most will find it impossible.

One could go on with many more problems such as what will happen to the Youth and Cadet Leagues, where do we get the required number of suitably graded referees - remembering most of the more senior referees are taken up the National League - and where is the money coming from for all the publicity that will be required to promote this Summer League?

If we don't promote it how will it be the success that some people expect it to be?

As I said, anything that will improve the image, popularity and publicity of Super League should be encouraged.

But please don't spoil what many clubs have worked hard for and that is a well run and competitive competition that is arguably the premier winter competition in the country.

If Summer Soccer goes ahead and it is a success, and by success I mean draw larger crowds and great publicity, I will be the first put my hand up and say 'sorry, I was wrong!' But somehow I don't think I will be wrong.

Finally, isn't soccer a winter sport anyway?

The above thoughts are entirely my personal thoughts and in no way should be attributed to any club or organisation with which I am associated.

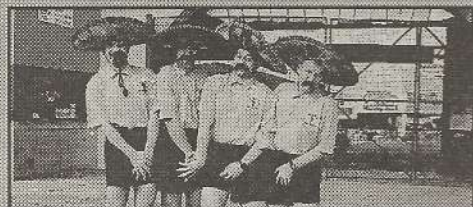
**Ray Sandell  
Killarney Vale, NSW**





# The Four Diegos

with all-time NSL high-scorer  
Damian Mori



**Diegos:** Congratulations on breaking the all time record for goals scored in the NSL by any player - 138 goals.

Many pretty boy strikers like to accumulate goals and the supermodels, drink cards and kudos that goes with it often at the expense of their team's success. You instead have remained humble despite your outstanding achievement.

Have you allowed yourself privately to enjoy the moment at all?

**Mori:** I've always said that when you achieve personal milestones they don't really mean a lot until you retire. I believe it's only then that you can comfortably look back on your career and contemplate what you have achieved and give yourself a pat on the back.

While you're still playing and involved in a team, it's a team effort whatever happens. At the moment at the Adelaide Force, we're trying to get into the finals and that's all we are really focused on.

**Diegos:** Many superlatives have been used over the years to describe you - goal king, goal sneak, goal poacher, penalty box sniffer and deadly marksman, to name a few.

It's clear that you do have an uncanny knack of scoring goals.

Is it pure hard work that has allowed you to achieve what you have or is prolific goal scoring more a God given gift?

**Mori:** If it was God's gift I wouldn't be here, I'd be overseas! I think you've got to enjoy what you do and I enjoy scoring goals. Because I enjoy it so much I always try to put myself in the best position to hit the back of the net.

That may well be the instinct of a striker - a desire to put yourself in the right place at the right time.

There are many good strikers. Just have a look at someone like Paul Trimboli. He is one of the great strikers but he doesn't score a lot of goals, he is more of a creator of goals.

That's his role in the team. I always

put it down to the fact that defenders have to do their job, goalkeepers have to do their job and I have to do my job and that is to score goals.

**Diegos:** What about the goal celebration? Does much planning go into a goal celebration these days?

**Mori:** Not with mine. Mine has been the same for the last 10 years. I think it's that immediate reaction that you have. I just get adrenaline rush and tend to enjoy the moment.

**Diegos:** Any plans to change the goal celebration? Perhaps a Ravanelli headless chook celebration might be novel?

**Mori:** Do you guys want me to change it? Ravanelli's been done many times before. If I do change it will have to be something original. Stay tuned!

**Diegos:** Strangely, you spent some of your career at Sunshine George Cross in the NSL as, of all things, a full back many years ago.

Your hard running, robust style of play seems to be a remnant of those hard tackling, winger-hating days. It's been an uncommon metamorphosis.

Do you think that you'll ever lose the taste for a goal and want to move into the back half as your career winds down?

**Mori:** When I left South Melbourne many years ago and joined Sunshine I did spend half a season as a defender. At the moment I'm quite happy to play up front. I think it is easier to go from playing as striker to playing as a defender than the other way around.

We saw that with Carl Veart in our team. Carl was having a bad trot and was moved to centre half. Since then he has regained confidence and is currently one of our most consistent players.

**Diegos:** You had one unsuccessful foray as an overseas professional with German Bundesliga club, Borussia Moenchengladbach a few years ago. Whilst the German beer and the Bavarian piano accordion and sausage barbecues

were quite agreeable, your time with the club wasn't, and you returned home after only one season.

It must have been a disappointing time. Do you still harbour ambitions to play overseas?

**Mori:** "For me, I honestly don't believe it was unsuccessful. I felt that just being part of a professional set up overseas was a success in itself.

To see what it was all about and to experience club football at the highest level, made it one of the most memorable experiences of my life.

It was disappointing that I only played in six games but to know that I did have a go and play with the likes of Stefan Effenberg and Swedish international, Martin Dahlin was truly fantastic."

**Diegos:** "You do possess a pedigree for breaking records.

Who could ever forget the world record you set for the fastest goal ever scored, after only 3.7 seconds for Adelaide City v Sydney United in 1996.

That record unfortunately, has since been unofficially broken by a goal hungry Uruguayan ball hog, with the aid of a strong wind, a midget opposition goalkeeper and a convenient change in the opening kick off rule by FIFA.

You broke Rod Brown's record for NSL goals scored. Having had your world record broken, can you relate to how Rod must be feeling now?"

**Mori:** "I don't know whether the Uruguayan effort has been verified. My club is currently looking into it.

Whatever happens good luck to the guy who breaks the record. Records are there to be broken and I'm sure that at some stage someone will break the record, if it's not broken already."



**Diegos:** "Thanks Damian. The Diegos are looking forward to the new goal celebration. Whichever one you choose can you please involve your coach Zoran Matic? We believe he needs to be happier. Adios amigo!"

**Mori:** "Thanks Diegos. I don't know whether Zoran will samba around the corner flag with me but I'll give it a go anyway. Adios Diegos!"

\*Inside Soccer plans to make a presentation to Damian Mori this Friday during C7's coverage of the Force game at Hindmarsh Stadium.

## QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"If we were playing the Ku-Ring-Gai under 11's tomorrow, I'd be a bit concerned."

Branko Culina's brutally frank assesment of Olympic's current form.

"We weren't asked!"

Glory GM Roger Lefort on reports that Bolton were not aware of new signing Con Boutsianis' impending court trial in May. Bolton may lodge a complaint with FIFA.

"There are so many homosexual players there, they always provoke you, they touch your thighs, your bum, to see if you will give some kind of signal .. I felt like an outsider among so many people who lived like this as if it were the most normal thing in the world. That's how they live in Europe ... obviously I feel disgusted when a homosexual shares the same shower and stares at one's bum with desire, and even gets emotional when you are

naked. Disgusting."

Argentine Eduardo Berizzo, who had a short and, perhaps not surprisingly, unsuccessful stint with Marseille this season before returning home. Gives new meaning to Gay Paris?

"When the ball is between the goalkeeper and the last man of the other team, there cannot be a Marconi player before the ball leaves the foot of the opposition."

Nadia Renaud, wife of Brendan on the off-side rule. No we didn't understand it either. But read next week for full interview.

"It is a load of crap."

Geyland Eagles' (S-league) Aussie coach Alan Vest on the idea that coaches should take the praise when they make substitutions that seem to turn the game.

"I didn't know what to do. I was lost almost."

Simon Colosimo as he was preparing to come on for his first game in eight months. Good to have you back Simon.



## Stereo 974 FM in Melbourne THE FOUR DIEGOS

Sat 10am to midday

This week's guests ...  
A selection of Aussies  
abroad and the best of  
Australia

"Compulsory listening for Melbourne's sports  
public," says Inside Soccer editor Aidan Ormond



## NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE - ROUND TWENTY EIGHT

## CANBERRA COSMOS v CARLTON

1		1	Dean Anastasiadis	
2	David Milin	2	Dave McPherson	Carlton
3	Toplica Popovich	3	Craig Deans	
4	Danny Burt	4	Simon Colosimo	
5	Nicholas Purdue	5	Sean Douglas	
6	Jason Polak	6	Andrew Marth	
7	David Winnie	7	Stuart Slater	
8	Daniel Watkins	8	Mark Atkinson	
9	Alex Castro	9	Alex Moreira	
10	Michael Musitano	10	Lubo Lapsansky	
11	David Arranz	11	Archie Thompson	
12	Brian Hamilton	12	Mike Conroy	
13	Harry James	13	Steve Martin	
14	Glen Kolpak	14	John Markovski	
15	Ilija Prenzoski	15	Con Anthopoulos	
16	Robbie Hooker	16	David Terminello	
17	Nikola Mrdja	17	Joe Tricarico	
18	Geoff Howarth	18		
19	Grant Barlow	19		
20	Scott Conlon	20		
21	Elliot Zwangobani	21	Andrew Packer	
22	Andrew Clark	22	Angelo Mtsiopoulos	
23	PJ Roberts	23	Colin Azzopardi	
24	Ivo De Jesus	24	Joshua Kennedy	
25	Gabriel Gonzalez	25	Daniel Vasilevski	
26	Angelo Konstantinou	26	Steve Horvat	

Venue: Bruce Stadium - Friday 31 March 2000 7.30PM  
 Head to Head: Played 7 Cosmos wins: 1 Carlton wins: 6 Draws 0  
 Last Week: Cosmos playing Breakers tonight.  
 Carlton 3-1 home win over Perth Glory.

## PARRAMATTA POWER v SOUTH MELBOURNE

1	Andrew Crews	1	Milan Udvaracz	
2	David Barrett	2	Steve Iosifidis	
3	Michael Santalab	3	Fausto de Amicis	
4	Steve Eagleton	4	Nick Orlic	
5	Richard Plesa	5	Con Blatsis	
6	Joe Vrkic	6	David Clarkson	
7	Jacob Burns	7	Steve Panopoulos	
8	Walter Ardone	8	Vaughan Coveny	
9	Mile Sterjovski	9	Paul Trimboli	
10	Joel Griffiths	10	Michael Curcija	
11	Steve Berry	11	John Anastasiadis	
12	Stephen Laybutt	12	Richie Alagich	
13	Milan Blagojevic	13	Adrian Cuzzupe	
14	John Angelucci	14	Anthony Magnacca	
15	Danny Townsend	15	Goran Lozanovski	
16	Mark Byrnes	16	George Goutzoulis	
17	Danny Kukucka	17	Jim Tsekis	
18	Lachlan Campbell	18	Robert Liparoti	
19	Matt Thompson	19	Tasos Psonis	
20	Barney Smith	20	Chris Jones	
21	Ahmid Elrich	21	Rade Culbirk	
22	John Gibson	22	Mustafa Mustafa	
23	Peter Bennett	23	Chris Roche	
24		24	Andy Vlahos	
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30	Mike Gibson			

Venue: Parramatta Stadium - Friday 31 March 2000 7.30PM  
 Head to Head: Played 1 Power wins: 0 South wins: 1 Draws 0  
 Last Week: Power 1-0 away loss to Sydney United.  
 South 0-0 home draw with Strikers.

## GIPPSLAND FALCONS v FOOTBALL KINGZ

1	Bojo Jevdjovic	1	Michael Utting	
2	Dean Fak	2	Che Bunce	
3	Manny Gotis	3	Riki Van Steeden	
4	Mehmed Durakovic	4	Jon Lammers	
5	Jeff Hopkins	5	Jonathon Perry	
6	Brian MacNichol	6	Marcus Stergiopoulos	
7	Andy Vargas	7	Wynton Rufer	
8	Clayton Bell	8	Chris Jackson	
9	Robbie Puca	9	Fred de Jong	
10	Sandy Robertson	10	Jeff Campbell	
11	John Hutchinson	11	Robbie Middleby	
12	Peter Kakos	12	Harry Ngata	
13	Adrian Savage	13	Levent Osman	
14	Doug Marcina	14	Batrum Suri	
15	Jonathon Buhugiar	15	Ivan Vicelich	
16	Juan Nilo	16	Lee Jones	
17	Michael Katz	17	Mark Elrick	
18	Igor Mandic	18	Stuart Riddle	
19	Simon Miotto	19	Leigh Kenyon	
20	Ben Cassar	20	Jason Batty	
21		21	David Moya	
		22	Aaron Silva	
		23	Simon Eaddy	
		24	Aaron Lines	
		25	Noah Hickey	

Venue: Mobil Park - Saturday 1 April 2000 7.00PM  
 Head to Head: Played 1 Falcons wins: 0 Kingz wins: 0 Draws 1  
 Last Week: Falcons 2-0 away loss to Spirit.  
 Kingz 3-1 away loss to Glory.

## PERTH GLORY v SYDNEY UNITED

1	Tom Tomich	1	John Crawley	
2	Robert Trajkovski	2	Ray Younis	
3	Jamie Harnwell	3	Mark Racker	
4	Aurelio	4	Velimir Kupresak	
5	Vinko Buljbasic	5	Eddie Bosnar	
6	Gareth Naven	6	Vince Savocca	
7	Scott Miller	7	Mirko Jurilj	
8	Troy Halpin	8	Nahuel Arrarte	
9	Alistair Edwards	9	Mario Jermen	
10	Bobby Despotoski	10	Ante Moric	
11	Kasey Wehrman	11	Tom Pondeljak	
12	Peter Buljan	12	Tom Maric	
13	Jamos Afkos	13	Matthew Zec	
14	Dion Valle	14	Kain Rastall	
15	Edgar Junior	15	Aytec Genc	
16		16	Joe Moric	
17		17	Nick Bosevski	
18	Hamilton Thorp	18	Steve Bozinovski	
19	John Carbone	19	Greg Saric	
20	Tony Franken	20	Steve Tolios	
21	Ivan Ergic	21	Zvonko Uslebrka	
22	Ljubo Milicevic	22	Colin Luff	
23	Jason Petkovic	23	Terry Palapanis	
24	Aaron Cole	24	Andy Rakic	
25	Gary Faria	25	Ante Deak	
		26	Brett Hughes	

Venue: Perth Oval - Sunday 2 April 2000 4.00PM  
 Head to Head: Played 8 Glory wins: 4 United wins: 3 Draws 1  
 Last week: Glory 3-1 home win over Kingz.  
 United 1-0 home win over Power.

## MELBOURNE KNIGHTS v WOLLONGONG WOLVES

1	Joey Rayher	1	Lees Pogliacomì	
2	Ivan Jolic	2	George Souris	
3	Ante Kovacevic	3	Alvin Ceccoli	
4	Jason Vukadin	4	Robert Stanton	
5	John Didulica	5	David Cervinski	
6	Mark Silic	6	Matt Horsley	
7	Dragi Nastevski	7	Paul Reid	
8	Ivan Kelic	8		
9	Paul Urlovic	9		
10	Mijo Trupkovic	10	Stuart Young	
11	Murtala Toyin Abbas	11	Scott Chipperfield	
12	Lance Plunkett	12	Neil Harlock	
13	Paul Magdic	13	Noel Spencer	
14	Ransford Banini	14	Saso Petrovski	
15	Alex Kriatzoglou	15	David Huxley	
16	Roddy Vargas	16	Peter Lahanas	
17	Zlatko Maglic	17	Esala Masi	
18	Martin John	18	Paul O'Grady	
19	Zeljko Susa	19	Paul Dimech	
20	Steven Tillinger	20	Daniel Beltrame	
21	Michael Reda	21	Mark Robertson	
22	Hrvoje Matkovic	22	Ben Blake	
23	Adrian Cervinski	23	Dino Mennillo	
24	Marko Prskalo			
25	Lupce Acevski			

Venue: Knights Stadium - Sunday 2 April 2000 3.00PM  
 Head to Head: Played 26 Knights wins: 14 Wolves wins: 10 Draws 2  
 Last week: Knights 0-1 away win over Olympic.  
 Wolves 1-2 home loss to Stallions.

## MARCONI STALLIONS v NORTHERN SPIRIT

1	Michael Turnbull	1	Robert Enes	
2	Chad Gibson	2	Matthew Langdon	
3	Mark Babic	3	Matthew Bingley	
4		4	Mark Rudan	
5	Dominic Longo	5	Luke Casserley	
6	Pan-Keum Kim	6	Robbie Slater	
7	Christian Care	7	Tony Perinich	
8	Darren McDonald	8	David Seal	
9	Zeljko Babic	9	Nicola Berti	
10	Brad Maloney	10	Troy Cranney	
11	Mike Smith	11	Simon Catanzaro	
12		12	Philip Moss	
13	Danny Invincible	13	Shane Lyons	
14	Buddy Farah	14	Anthony Faria	
15	Pierluigi di Gia	15	Paul Bilokapic	
16	Alex Duric	16	Paul Wearne	
17	Francis Awaritefe	17	Jess Van Stratten	
18	Harry Karl	18	Michael Cunico	
19	Brendan Renaud	19	Paul Henderson	
20	David Aceski	20	Adam Snyder	
21	Paolo Marchesini	21	Elvis Olic	
22	Kris Trajanovski	22	Ryan Griffiths	
23	Vlado Zoric	23	Jack Sobczyk	
24	Josaia Junior Sauturaga	24	Adam Griffiths	
25		25	Abbas Saad	
26	Daniel Severino	26	Ian Crook	
		27	Sean Cranney	
		28	Michael Prentice	

Venue: Marconi Stadium - Sunday 2 April 2000 6.00PM  
 Head to Head: Played 7 Stallions wins: 3 Spirit wins: 3 Draws 1  
 Last week: Stallions 1-2 away win over Wolves.  
 Spirit 2-0 home win over Falcons.



**FRIDAY 31 MARCH 7.30**  
**C7 SPORT CHANNEL 13**

**ADELAIDE CITY FORCE V  
 SYDNEY OLYMPIC**



**FORCE**

- 1
- 2 Atilio Hornjik
- 3 Ivan Zelic
- 4
- 5 Alex Tobin (below)
- 6 Carlo Talladira
- 7 Damian Mori
- 8 Carl Veart
- 9 Nick Sabljak
- 10 Aurelio Vidmar
- 11
- 12 Nathan Day
- 13 John Fusco
- 14 Michael Cartwright
- 15 Louis Brain
- 16 Matthew Kemp
- 17 Angelo Costanzo
- 18 Bradley Hassell
- 19 Claudio Pelosi
- 20 Adrian Cagalj
- 21 Dong Ki Kim
- 22 Shane Thompson
- 23 Jonathan Lihou

**OLYMPIC**

- 1 Jim Kourtis
- 2 Scott Thomas
- 3 Chris Zoricich
- 4 Peter Tsekenis
- 5 Scott Baillie
- 6 Ante Juric
- 7 Zlatko Arambasic
- 8 Marcus Phillips
- 9 Pablo Cardozo
- 10 Brett Emerton
- 11 Chris Kalantzis
- 12 Sebastian Sinozic
- 13 Alex Duric
- 14 Gabriel Mendez
- 15 Lindsay Wilson
- 16 George Goutzoulis
- 17 Paul Kohler
- 18 John Kyriazopoulos
- 19 Nick Carle
- 20 George Bouhoutsos
- 21 Lee Miot
- 22 Pete Zorbas
- 23 Dylan Macallister
- 24 Norman Tome
- 25 Hussein Jomaa
- 26 Adam Ciantar
- 27 John Perosh
- 30 John Karoubas

**REPLAYED SUNDAY 2 APRIL 7.30**  
**C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12**

**BRISBANE STRIKERS V  
 NEWCASTLE BREAKERS**



**STRIKERS**

- 1 Clint Bolton (below)
- 2 Glenn Gwynne
- 3 Shane Stefanutto
- 4 Andrew Davidson
- 5 Matthew Belli
- 6 Brad Dittton
- 7 Shane Smeltz
- 8 David Pilic
- 9 Paul Foster
- 10 Wayne Srhoj
- 11 Chay Hews
- 12 Peter Dwyer
- 13 Stuart McClaren
- 14 Jade North
- 15 Mark Battistin
- 16 Peter Grierson
- 17 Jeromy Harris
- 18 Nick Meredith
- 19 Wade Baldwin
- 20 Daniel Duke
- 21 Jon McKain

**BREAKERS**

- 1 Bob Catlin
- 2 Shane Pryce
- 3 Andrew Roberts
- 4 Adam Sanderson
- 5 Todd McManus
- 6 Glenn Sprod
- 7 Travis Dodd
- 8 Mark Wilson
- 9 Chris Tancheski
- 10 John Buonavoglia
- 11 Luke Tomich
- 12 Robert Angielevski
- 13 Brad Wleczorek
- 14 Greg Owens
- 15 Joshua Ferguson
- 16 Vasko Trpceviski
- 17 Paul Wheeler
- 18 Andrew Harper
- 19 Chad Mansley
- 20 Bradley Swancott
- 21 Peter Juchniewicz
- 22 Glenn Moore
- 23 Damien Smith
- 30 Jason Kos



**Venue:** Hindmarsh Stadium  
**Friday 31 March 7.00PM**  
**Head-to-Head:** 46  
**Force:** 19  
**Olympic:** 18  
**Draws:** 9  
**Last Week:** Force 0-2 away win over Kingz  
 Olympic 0-1 home loss to Knights



**Venue:** Suncorp Metway Stadium  
**Saturday 1 April 7.00PM**  
**Head to Head:** 16  
**Strikers:** 5  
**Breakers:** 7  
**Draws:** 4  
**Last Week:** Strikers 0-0 away draw with South.  
 Breakers playing Cosmos tonight.



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